

NAZI FOREST OF DEATH

Simon Schama on Goering's bloody crusade to create a hunting idyll, page 15

Thirteen pages of news, analysis and reports, pages 21-33

My unbeaten marathon record, by the fastest Commons man, page 16



THE TIMES

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Clarke fights to limit expectations

Tories split on three-year tax cuts strategy

By Philip Webster, Political Editor

KENNETH CLARKE was desperately trying last night to head off growing Tory demands for a three-year timetable of tax cuts to cover the period before and after the next general election.

The party's finance committee will tomorrow urge the Chancellor to launch a programme of £10 billion in tax cuts by 1998 — an idea that is winning support among MPs, ministers and Tory strategists. But Mr Clarke is said to regard the proposal as no more than "an interesting Budget submission" and to be determined not to be "boxed in" months before he has to make any decisions.

Treasury sources, worried about the City's reaction to such a long-term pledge, said that Mr Clarke must lower expectations. And there was irritation with Jeremy Hanley, the party chairman, for going close to backing the idea and encroaching on the Chancellor's territory.

The idea, which would mean the third round of cuts coming after an election — is being promoted enthusiastically by some Tories as a way of trapping Labour, since



Portillo: taxes "are settled in a Budget"

opposition spokesmen would have to say whether they would abandon or implement the cuts if elected.

On Saturday, Mr Hanley said that a rolling programme would be "perfectly valid. There is a medium for doing so by binding our own Government to a course of action. It is up to the electorate then to decide whether they would like us to continue in that direction, recognising that a future Labour government might reverse it," he said.

But he came under fire privately from some ministers

for giving public backing to the idea, and Michael Portillo repeatedly refused to endorse it when interviewed on television yesterday. In what seemed to be a rebuke to Mr Hanley, he said: "These matters are settled in a Budget — and a Budget is a matter which is decided by the Chancellor in consultation with the Prime Minister."

Mr Clarke has clearly not ruled out the idea, but sources close to him say that he will not begin to think about Budget decisions until the annual gathering of Treasury experts at Chevening in the summer. One Treasury insider said: "It is rather urgent that we depress expectations."

Some ministers believe that Mr Clarke should concentrate on big tax cuts in the next two Budgets, rather than promise a third year for electoral purposes. They fear an adverse City reaction if economic conditions deteriorate when the Government is committed to cuts.

The renewed debate about tax, fuelled by strong hints from John Major and Mr Clarke at the Conservative Central Council in Birmingham that autumn cuts are on the way, comes as married couples and home owners face tax increases this week.

Gordon Brown, the Shadow Chancellor, pointed to those rises yesterday when he accused the Government of abandoning middle- and lower-income Britain, saying: "Repeating tired old promises of tax cuts in the week you are raising taxes for the 20th time does not add up to a new policy."

Mr Portillo's refusal to be drawn on the subject was said by friends to be unsurprising for a minister who would naturally have aspirations to being Chancellor one day. He said: "We have taken difficult decisions in government to control public borrowing and public spending. That may well put the Chancellor in a position where he can safely and responsibly reduce taxes."

Meanwhile, it emerged yesterday that Mr Major has ordered a substantial increase in cash for education next year. He was reported by sources yesterday to believe that this year's tough settlement over education spending was justified — even though it failed to meet the cost of the teachers' pay award, but a similar clampdown would not be acceptable next year if the Conservatives were to avoid a "Middle England" backlash.

Gillian Shephard, the Education Secretary, appears to have won an important victory behind the scenes, which will enable her to use Mr Major's authority in demanding extra money next year, although reports yesterday suggesting an additional £1 billion were said to be utterly speculative.



Margorzata Sobanska, women's winner of yesterday's London Marathon, acknowledges the cheers of the crowd

Bank chief's jobs warning

THE head of one of Britain's leading banks has predicted that one in five banking jobs will go in the next few years.

Sir Brian Pitman, chief executive at Lloyds, said that he expected 75,000 jobs to be lost in the industry, on top of the 90,000 that have gone since 1989.

Rob O'Neill, spokesman for the banking union Bifu, said: "We have seen 100,000 jobs go over the last few years. Our view is that the job cuts are not needed and will affect customer service. We are very opposed to any further losses." Page 2

McManaman's cup final double

Two outstanding individual goals by England international midfielder Steve McManaman ended Liverpool's three-year drought without a major honour when they beat Bolton Wanderers 2-1 in the Coca-Cola Cup final. Page 21

First night flop

A series of embarrassing blunders ruined the British premiere of Schmitke's *Life with an Idiot* at English National Opera, transforming what should have been a disturbing satire into high farce. Pages 3, 13

Bomb-makers die

At least eight Palestinians, including children, were killed and 30 injured when a "bomb factory" run by Islamic terrorists in a residential building in Gaza City blew up. Page 10

Pole coasts home — fresh, relaxed and £40,000 richer

By John Goodbody, Sports News Correspondent

THE Polish runner Malgorzata Sobanska was so fresh and relaxed at the finish of the London Marathon yesterday that few people would have thought she had just run more than 26 miles in the highest temperatures in the 15 years of the event. It was also the closest finish for the women's race.

Watched by hundreds of thousands of spectators, the 26,000 competitors struggled through heat of up to 70°F and drank 750,000 bottles of water to offset the effects of the warmth.

In the men's race, Dionicio Ceron, of Mexico, earned £176,100, a record amount of money for any athletics event staged in Britain, when he became the first man to win the London Marathon twice.

The women's race began at 9am and Sobanska, 25, finished before the temperatures reached their peak. Her victory over Manuela Machado, the European champion, was a surprise because she had entered the race only to earn selection for the world championships in Gothenburg in August. She said: "After 22 miles I thought that I would be third. But with just over a mile to go, I felt better and thought I could win it."

The Pole, running her sixth marathon, recorded her best time with 2 hours 27 minutes 43 seconds and earned £40,380 in prize money and bonuses.

CHECK WHERE YOU FINISHED

The Times exclusively today publishes all the names and times of runners completing the marathon course in under 3hr 11min 50sec. 32, 33

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Mexican wins again 23

Sobanska, from Poznan, who is single and is studying physiotherapy at the Academy of Sport in Wroclaw, broke clear of Machado in the last mile to win by ten seconds. Riva Lemetinen, of Finland, was third. Sobanska trailed Machado for much of the race and the European champion said afterwards: "I tried everything I could to get rid of the other two. But they would not go. With one mile to go, I knew that Sobanska was still very strong."

In the men's race, Ceron outstripped Steve Moneghetti, the Commonwealth champion from Australia, by three seconds in 2 hours 8 minutes 30 seconds after Antonio Pinto, of Portugal, had been running at a world record pace for much of the race. However, Ceron and Moneghetti reeled him back along the Embankment in the last three miles.

One male competitor, in his 40s, died during the race, the fourth fatality since 1981.

Concorde arranges a super saver for Major

By Harvey Elliott, Air Correspondent

CIVIL servants responsible for the Government's travel arrangements may just have pulled off the best air fare deal of the year.

John Major and a party of 30 advisers were last night crossing the Atlantic by Concorde for less than the cost of hiring a Boeing 747.

The Prime Minister will arrive in Washington in the ultimate British status symbol: Concorde is the travel equivalent of power-dressing. It will be a suitably confident entrance for Mr Major, who has to tackle President Clinton on several thorny issues, including Bosnia and Northern Ireland, where the two men have lately failed to agree.

He hoped to have enough time to sample all five courses of the aircraft's gourmet dinner as he flew to America faster than the speed of sound. After smoked salmon, he was choosing between grilled lamb, pasta, king prawn salad and guinea fowl, followed by chocolate mousse, fresh fruit and cheese, coffee and truffle chocolates. Six stewardesses attended him.

The journey to Edwards air force base was completed in less than four hours, while a subsonic flight would have taken more than twice as long. Remarkably, Downing Street is believed to have hired Concorde for less than £100,000.

The coup was achieved after British Airways was asked to supply a Boeing 747 with its interior rearranged to accommodate the Prime Minister as he sleeps and works during the ten-hour flight.

BA at first agreed, but it quickly became clear that no 747 would be available. Recent gales have sent debris hurtling around Heathrow, damaging several of the airline's fleet of jumbos.

With summer route expansion and strong demand for seats, BA reluctantly told Downing Street that no 747 was free for use. They did, however, have one aircraft spare: the Concorde G-BOAB.

Downing Street instructed its agent, Air London, to demand the lowest possible price. A one-way transatlantic ticket on Concorde costs £2,515. When all 100 seats are filled, the supersonic aircraft receives more than £250,000 for each leg of the journey.

Mr Major and his team of 30 have travelled for less than half that.

Healing the rift, page 7
Peter Riddell, page 16

Primaries take to the superhighway

By Our Political Editor

PLANS to link all 1,800 primary schools in Wales to the Internet, the world information network, are to be announced by John Redwood, the Welsh Secretary. The Minister is also urging schools to use new computer technology to teach English, Welsh and mathematics in traditional ways.

Mr Redwood has decided that the technology revolution must be brought to the classroom and is planning to use a speech shortly to pledge the £3 million needed to put schools on the communications "superhighway". Senior ministers believe that the swift growth of commun-

ications techniques must be seized upon by the education system. Some have been impressed when travelling round schools to see youngsters giving up their lunch-breaks to continue using their computers for French and German grammar lessons.

In a speech to the Conservative Political Centre, Mr Redwood called on schools to join the telecommunications world. "It is a dance to be joined to a Welsh tune, a jig to be turned by Welsh partners, a routine to be ingrained in the Welsh schoolroom," he said.

"Our children have no doubt. They are dancing to the tune of Cyberspace enthusiastically... you can control the

world at the touch of a button. They can travel the world from a classroom, learning as they watch, read and move the cursor.

"Even French grammar can captivate if it is presented in colour on a screen. They will become the new travellers on the Internet, enjoying its early fruits and perhaps creating its first rush hours," Mr Redwood said.

Last month, Tim Eggar, the Industry Minister and a former schools minister, launched a £750,000 pilot scheme for English schools called Schools Online.

Fans on Internet, page 5
Education, page 35

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Tories' vote-winning ploy that puts off tough economic choices

A DELAYED-ACTION tax cut, to be announced before the general election whether or not the Treasury can actually afford it, may seem like a foolproof wheeze for winning votes. But a promise of multi-year tax cuts carries more risks, both politically and economically, than the Prime Minister may yet realise.

The Treasury has always resisted making long-term promises about taxes for one fundamental reason. Economic events are unpredictable and it is impossible to say exactly how much money the Government will need

several years ahead. In theory, of course, a government can stick to its tax promises and instead change its spending. But public spending can be slow and politically difficult to change; in practice, therefore, governments which tie their hands on taxes usually take an easier way out when the unexpected happens, as it always does: they allow public borrowing to take the strain.

This is exactly what happened in America from 1982 onwards, when the huge tax cuts promised by Ronald Reagan in 1980 failed to



If the tax burden is really to be reduced, voters should also be asked if they want lower public spending.
Anatole Kaletsky writes

generate the extra revenues he had assumed. America has been struggling with enormous deficits ever since. Britain had a similar experience under Nigel Lawson, who could fairly be described as the intellectual godfather of the delayed-action tax cut. During the 1980s, the then

Chancellor used to publish a "Medium Term Financial Strategy", which set out the Government's spending and tax plans for four years in advance. These plans had a line labelled "Implied Fiscal Adjustment", which Mr Lawson, now Lord Lawson of Blaby, openly acknowledged

as code for future tax cuts. But his attempts to stick to his long-term plans and fiscal adjustments, instead of setting policy pragmatically in each Budget, depending on the needs of the economy, helped to cause the boom and bust of the late 1980s.

The possibility of causing serious economic problems sometime in the indefinite future has never deterred desperate governments, but the financial markets and the Bank of England have a way of foreshortening events. If tax-cutting promises look like jeopardising Britain's economic stability in the future,

interest rates will rise sharply, undoing much of the political benefit. To avoid the threat of a financial backlash, therefore, Mr Major would have to qualify his promises of tax cuts in one of three ways.

First, he could make tax cuts clearly conditional on the economy's performance. But any such conditionality would make promises to cut taxes counter-productive — they might simply remind voters of similar promises made before the last election and then promptly reversed because of "unexpected" economic events. Second, Mr

Major could set out a programme of cuts in income tax rates, but say nothing about the total burden of taxes. If necessary, such tax "cuts" could then be offset by higher VAT or National Insurance. Whether this approach would work politically would depend on Labour's skill in reviving public fury over VAT on fuel, dwindling mortgage reliefs, disappearing marriage allowances and other hidden taxes.

Finally, Mr Major could promise to cut the true burden of taxes, regardless of economic circumstances, but balance this promise with an

equally firm commitment to public spending reductions of equivalent amount. If the Government laid out specific reductions in spending plans for pensions, education, transport and health in the same detail as its plans to cut taxes, the City, the Bank of England and Tory activists would be delighted. The trouble is that voters rarely want to pay for lower taxes with tangible cuts in public services. An honest plan for cuts in taxes and public spending would force them to make a clear choice.

Tax cuts split, page 1

One in five bank jobs will be lost, says Lloyds boss

By Philip Pangalos

ONE in five bank workers will lose their jobs in the next few years as the industry undergoes wholesale rationalisation similar to that suffered by British manufacturing, the head of one of Britain's leading banks predicts.

Sir Brian Pitman, chief executive at Lloyds, estimated that 75,000 jobs would go, on top of the 90,000 lost since 1989. At its peak in 1989 the banking industry employed 460,000 people, since when some 3,000 bank and building society branches have closed.

Sir Brian has long said that there are too many jobs and branches, but he has now extended his warning to include other areas of the financial services such as insurance, saying that they are only just beginning the cost-cutting practised by banks for years. Cutsback would hit the Southeast particularly hard.

Rob O'Neill, spokesman for Banking Insurance and Finance Union described Sir Brian's forecast as "devastating". He said: "We have seen 100,000 jobs go over the last

few years. This would mean we face the same level of job cuts for the next five years. Our view is that the job cuts are not needed and will affect customer service."

Lloyds Bank yesterday attempted to distance itself from the job loss reports, which appeared in a weekend newspaper, saying there was nothing new in the warnings and claiming it was unnecessarily upsetting for its staff. A Lloyds spokeswoman said that Sir Brian's remarks were quoted out of context after a private lunch last week. However, she did not deny them.

The Government was also at pains to play down the warning. John Townsend, chairman of the Conservative backbench finance committee, conceded there would be some losses through "natural wastage" but said the figure given was "rather high" and "alarmist".

Harriet Harman, Shadow Employment Secretary, said the warning would only increase job insecurity. "This latest threat of mass redundancies will spread the epidemic of job insecurity that the Government has created even further through the country."

The Lloyds spokeswoman said the bank was not about to announce any further cuts. "This process began five years ago. Lloyds Bank has always sought to cut jobs through natural wastage and voluntary redundancy. The banking industry is going through the same process that manufacturing industry went through ten years ago. New technology has resulted in changes."

Computer technology, telephone banking and increased automation of some tasks formerly performed by clerks have all seen banks lose thousands of staff. "Past job

cuts have been painful, but it has not been at the expense of our customers. We survey more than 400,000 customers a quarter and they tell us that our service has improved," the Lloyds spokeswoman added.

Fears of further widespread job losses came after Friday's approval of Lloyds's planned £1.8 billion takeover of the Cheltenham & Gloucester Building Society, after society members voted overwhelmingly in favour of the merger.

The C&G acquisition would lead to any job losses at all. It is a deal about expansion, not about rationalisation," Lloyds says.

A spokesman for National Westminster Bank said: "We are not going to speculate about job cuts. Above all, we have always attempted to achieve job cuts on a voluntary basis and by natural wastage. In the past there have been very few compulsory redundancies."

The NatWest group employed some 108,900 people at its peak in 1990. Since then there have been about 21,000 redundancies, though 14,900 jobs have been created. In the UK, there have been 16,200 jobs losses since 1990, while 11,400 have been created.

Barclays has cut about 18,000 jobs in the past five years, bringing its UK workforce down to about 65,000, largely as a result of new technology affecting back office staff. A spokesman would not comment on future plans at the bank but said: "There may well be a need for some jobs to go, but we are also recruiting people at the same time. We've also made a commitment that there will be no compulsory job cuts this year in our branch network."

Job fears, page 40



A smile from Captain Mike Lobb before he and his Royal Engineers' team defused the bomb

Bomb tamer becomes a local hero

By Edward Gorman

CAPTAIN Michael Lobb, who successfully defused a Luftwaffe bomb on the Isle of Portland in Dorset, was on his way to becoming a local hero last night.

Yesterday morning the 26-year-old Royal Engineer had received a letter from Laura Gates, a schoolgirl which he kept in his pocket throughout the operation. "I think you and your army are very brave and I would like to thank you for your help," she told him.

Four thousand residents evacuated from their homes were expected to return to their homes last night after the operation. The delicate operation to disarm the half-ton device, thought to have been dropped by a Heinkel bomber during a raid on Portland naval base in 1942, was scheduled to finish about 12 hours earlier than originally planned.

The evacuation to nearby holiday camps and caravan sites, which occasioned a return of the Dunkirk spirit in some but grumbling among others, did not go entirely without incident.

At one point the team of Royal

Engineers led by Captain Lobb had to suspend work while a seven-year-old boy who broke his arm playing football on another part of the island was taken through the exclusion zone on his way to hospital. A couple who flew back from a two-week holiday in Tunisia unaware of the operation were surprised to find their home cordoned off.

Nine so-called "refuseniks" remained in the danger zone throughout the drama, having decided to stay even at the risk of possible arrest. In the event they were allowed to stay so long as they signed disclaimers.

Work on the device, found under a football pitch, began in earnest on Saturday night when Captain Lobb removed the rusting fuse. Working through the night, he then drilled through the casing to enable the explosive to be steamed out. Last night the operation was completed when a small charge was placed next to the bomb to destroy the detonator.

The scale of evacuation, which re-

quired a patrol of 200 civil and military police to ensure there was no looting of empty houses on the island, was defended by police and council officials. Bill Raymond, of Weymouth and Portland Borough Council, said: "If you don't do enough and something goes wrong, then you are in for criticism. When you are faced with a problem of this kind you have got to do everything possible to ensure that no one is at risk."

For those who stayed, it turned out to be an eerily quiet weekend. "It was a strange sensation," said Martin Rogers, 64, who with his German wife Lore enjoyed their regular Sunday afternoon siesta. "You could hear the silence. It was a very physical silence. I've never known a situation like it in my life before."

For many of the evacuees, the weekend turned out to be an opportunity for some nostalgic fun. At the Royal Exchange pub on Saturday night, a 1940s party was laid on, complete with uniforms, food and music from the war. Anyone turning up with a 1940s coin was given a free drink.

Law Society faces historic leadership challenge

By Frances Gibb
LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Law Society is facing the first challenge to its leadership in more than 40 years. In a move that has shocked the old guard of the Law Society Council, the governing body for 70,000 solicitors in England and Wales, grassroots members have declared that they will force an open election for the posts of president and vice president.

The challenge has been thrown down by Martin Mears and Robert Sayer, newly elected members of the Law Society Council, who believe the leadership is out of touch with the many solicitors who have suffered badly during the recession.

They are contesting the posts of president — which had been expected to pass automatically to John Young, a partner with the City law firm Cameron Markby Hewitt — and vice president, due to go to Henry Hodge, of the legal aid firm Hodge Jones & Allen. A third council member, Eileen Penbridge, is also running for president.

Their decisions to stand in June on an anti-Law Society ticket means that for the first time in 40 years the election will be by a postal ballot of members, and not just rubber-stamped by the council.

Mr Mears, a partner with Mears Hobbs & Durrant, a 40-lawyer firm based in Great Yarmouth, accuses the Law Society of having done "a bad job" in leading the profession. Mr Sayer, 43, a partner in the small general London practice of Sayer Moore and Co, said: "The public think we are all fat cats, but times have been getting tougher and 65 per cent of firms are facing financial problems. Things are pretty dire."

Law Report, page 30



Pitman: long warned that cuts are needed

Identity cards head Tory agenda to tackle Blair

By Philip Webster, Political Editor

THE introduction of compulsory identity cards, measures to boost home ownership and proposals to help people to keep more take-home pay were foreshadowed by John Major at the weekend as he set out his "new agenda" to tackle Tony Blair in the battle for middle-class votes.

In his speech to the Conservative Central Council in Birmingham the Prime Minister gave a clear indication that ID cards were on the way when he said that a paper to be issued by the Home Office soon would consult people on such a scheme.

A senior Downing Street official said: "There are going to be identity cards of some shape or form, for example in the social security field. The only question is how wide it should go."

Under a housing White Paper to be introduced soon, about one million housing association tenants will be granted the right to buy their homes with large discounts.

Mr Major said that too many people were "still trapped in grey, impersonal housing estates" and ministers clearly hope that creating another generation of homeowners will help them in a general election.

Mr Major gave clear indications that there will be further cuts in inheritance tax. "Over the past decade we've doubled the threshold at which inheritance tax becomes payable. It's been difficult to go further in the last two or three years. But I'm committed to doing so as soon as we can afford it."

Reiterating the Government's target of reducing the standard rate of income tax to 20p, Mr Major also gave a strong hint of more tax breaks to encourage people to build up savings. "We want people to have the security and independence savings provide. We want to do more to encourage them."

While Mr Major heralded the "next phase of Conservatism", the majority of his more

than two dozen policy pronouncements related to plans that are already in train, have been announced, or build on successful Tory policies. Downing Street staff insisted that much more is expected from the trawl for new policies by the manifesto policy groups established by the Prime Minister a few weeks ago.

Mr Major's sometimes informal speech was well received by an audience of the party's hardened professionals, who are notoriously difficult to whip into enthusiasm.

His most passionate remarks came when he launched a fightback against renewed speculation that his leadership days may be numbered. He was strongly cheered when he said: "I did not struggle my way from a small terraced flat to this platform just for the hell of it. You don't just drift into Downing Street. I am here because I care and I know this country can be a better place for all of us."

Portillo rocks boat on Europe

Continued from page 1
pre-election row. He also risked upsetting Tory MPs by saying, only five days before the Scottish elections, that the Conservatives faced a crisis.

He said: "The crisis that is faced by our party is not that they (supporters) have lost faith in what we want to do or what we have done, but rather that the difference between the parties has become blurred."

Mr Portillo's firm backing for Mr Major came after the Prime Minister spoke passion-

ately at the Conservative Central Council meeting of his determination to see off potential challengers and win a fifth successive election for the Tories. It might be a "monumental scrap", he said, but he had never run away from a fight in his life.

"I didn't struggle my way from a small terraced flat to this platform just for the hell of it. You don't just drift into Downing Street."

In his interview, Mr Portillo said: "If the Conservative Par-

ty gets into the habit, half-way through each parliament, of removing its leader, I don't think it's going to do the party any good. I don't think that helps our credibility."

He is seen as a strong candidate to contest the Tory leadership one day. But the view at Westminster is that Michael Heseltine or Kenneth Clarke would be more likely to benefit if Mr Major were to fall soon.

Seats at risk page 6
William Rees-Mogg, page 16

Labour wants lottery prizes spread wider

Labour called for a shake-up of the national lottery yesterday to spread prize winnings more widely. With two ticket-holders confirmed as winning this weekend's record jackpot of £22.2 million, Chris Smith, Shadow National Heritage Secretary, suggested a bigger share-out of prizes, a possible ceiling on jackpot wins and a cut in the 11 per cent takings of the lottery organiser Camelot.

Camelot said 11 tickets matched five numbers plus the bonus number and won £38,715 each. 642 matched five numbers (£3,627), 50,717 won £101 each and more than 1.1 million won a £10 prize for three numbers.

Mountain bodies found

Three bodies were found yesterday on a mountainside in Glencoe after climbers noticed one man dead in the snow. A mountain rescue team called to recover the avalanche victim searched the area and found the two others near by. They have not yet been positively identified but are believed to be a father and son and their friend from West Yorkshire who went missing five weeks ago.

Panorama challenge

The Labour Party is considering calling for a judicial review of the BBC's decision to broadcast a *Panorama* interview with John Major tonight, three days before the Scottish local elections. The party claims that the interview breaches the impartiality undertakings in the BBC's guidelines to producers. Labour's Robin Cook said that trailers for the programme were "like a Tory party political broadcast".

Blandford charged

The Marquess of Blandford was charged last night with two counts of forging prescriptions, one of theft and one of making off without paying a taxi fare. The Marquess, 39, will appear before Huddersfield Road magistrates in central London this morning. A Scotland Yard spokesman said he had been arrested in a hotel room in Earsk Road.

Spencer press complaint

Earl Spencer, the brother of the Princess of Wales, issued a statement to say that his wife was being treated for psychological problems. He attacked sections of the tabloid press for "constantly harassing" Countess Spencer, a former model, during her stay at a private clinic. He said he planned to complain formally to the Press Complaints Commission.

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Premiere that should have restored company's reputation becomes high farce

Opera's first night adds to ENO woes

By DOMINIC KENNEDY

A SERIES of embarrassing blunders, ruined the British premiere of English National Opera's *Life with an Idiot*, transforming what should have been a disturbing satire by Schnitzke into high farce. After the recent opening of *Don Giovanni* ("little or nothing to recommend it", "a long, long evening desperately lacking in pace", "woefully under-rehearsed", the critics said, the emboldened ENO is under pressure to improve its reputation. This is a politically sensitive time for London's second opera company. Supporters want National Lottery money to help to pay the £40 million needed to refurbish its Coliseum-home. There has been an outcry at the proposal that ENO should close for repairs at the same time as the capital's other main opera venue, the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden. A recent report for the Arts Council of England, on the provision of opera and dance in London, was seen as favouring the needs of the Royal Opera over those of its rival down the road. The report suggested reducing the number of performances given by ENO at its home theatre, allowing the venue to house large-scale dance companies. There was mention of ENO mounting musicals at the Coliseum to bolster its box office. More radically, the Stevenson

report offered the possibility of closing the company altogether. So the British premiere of a work by one of Russia's greatest living composers should have restored the reputation of the "people's opera". Twenty minutes after the curtain was supposed to rise on Saturday night in front of celebrities from stage, screen and politics, final repairs were being made to the set. A faulty stage truck had to be given new wheels and an oil change. When the opera finally began, there was further calamity. "There was a very serious hiccup just at the point where the big shock scene is supposed to be occurring," said David Murray, music critic of the *Financial Times*. "We are supposed to have the idiot bugging the hero in his

bath and the bath only got half-way down from the flies and was left hanging there." A harassed stage hand appeared and her colleagues' frantic shouts could be heard as they tried to correct the error. A statue of Brezhnev as a fat urinating cherub was obscured by a dangling bath. Instead of climbing into the tub to seduce the hero, the idiot had to remain *in situ*, while the object of his lust peered longingly from the prop.

Rodney Milnes of *The Times* declared the ponderousness was the worst he had seen in 40 years of opera-going. "To have two pretty bad new productions one after another is obviously unfortunate to say the least."

Victor Erofeyev, the librettist, was there to see his words translated into a foul-mouthed script worthy of one by Quentin Tarantino. Dennis Marks, general director of ENO, said yesterday: "He thought it was the best production of the thing he had seen. He stayed at the party until one in the morning, having a terribly good time."

Life with an Idiot, a co-production with Scottish Opera, will be performed twice again at the Coliseum before moving to Glasgow, Edinburgh and Newcastle upon Tyne.



Dennis Marks, support

Review, page 13
Leading article, page 17



David Barrell, left, as the husband, Louisa Kennedy-Richardson, the wife, and Alasdair Elliott, the idiot

Joyrider's father wants him locked up

A FATHER urged Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, to lock up his tearaway 12-year-old son yesterday. The boy is said to be responsible for a string of crimes, including 60 cases of taking without consent. The boy is wanted in connection with an assault on two policemen and has run away from his foster home 20 times. Yesterday his father, a 35-year-old divorcee, pleaded: "He wants locking up for his own safety and for the safety of others." The father, who cannot be named for legal reasons, said: "He needs a short, sharp shock. If that doesn't do any good, then nothing will and he will carry on down the slippery slope until he discovers drugs and firearms. He is my son and I love him — but I don't know him any more." The boy is facing charges at Calder Youth Court, West Yorkshire, of assaulting a policeman, burglary, taking without consent, shoplifting and robbery. He ran away after leaving court last week and his father said: "We haven't a clue where he is now. We have tried everything from a good hiding to keeping him in. His foster parents have taken him on holidays abroad, but nothing makes any difference." The father is supported by his local councillor on Calderdale council, Pat Asquith, who has written to Mr Howard on the family's behalf urging him to put young tearaways in a secure unit.

Low-tech musical steals show from Fagin's boys

By DALYA ALBERGE, ARTS CORRESPONDENT

A SMALL-SCALE musical with no special effects won five Olivier awards last night, beating off the challenge from *Oliver!*, its grander and more publicised rival. *She Loves Me*, which ran for only nine months when it first opened on Broadway in 1963, took the musical category awards for best revival, best director, best actor, best actress and best supporting performer. The songs were written by Jerry Bock and Sheldon Harnick, best known for *Fiddler on the Roof*. Scott Ellis's revival was applauded by the critics as a good, old-fashioned love story that did not rely on special effects. "There are no rollerskates here," one reviewer said approvingly. The awards were also a triumph for subsidised theatre, which won all the drama awards. The winners included two productions that fuelled a debate about the supposed

preponderance of gay theatre in the West End. David Bamber won Best Actor for his role in *My Night with Reg*, which was commended for its treatment of homosexuality. It also won Best Comedy. Declan Donnell won Best Director of a Play with his all-male *As You Like It*, which also won Best Revival. (Six other actors were upstaged by lesser-known performers. The Oscar nominee Nigel Hawthorne was passed over for Niall Buggy in *Dead Funny*. Best Actress went to Clare Higgins in *Sweet Bird of Youth* at the Royal National Theatre. One critic described her as "an actress for whom greatness beckons". It was a good night for the National. The BBC Award for Best Play went to Arthur Miller's *Broken Glass*, which was transferred to the Duke of York's. One of its cast, Ken Stott, was voted Best Supporting Actor. Dora Bryan won

Best Supporting Actress for *The Birthday Party*. The awards are judged by members of the public and independent professionals, rather than by critics. The awards included: Best Director of a Musical: Scott Ellis (*She Loves Me*); Best Actress in a Musical: Ruthie Henshall (*She Loves Me*); Best Actor in a Musical: John Gordon Sinclair (*She Loves Me*); Costume Design: Deirdre Clancy (*Love's Labour's Lost* and *A Month in the Country*); Lighting Design: Mark Henderson for two productions; Best Entertainment: Maria Friedman for *Special Arrangement*; New Opera: ENO's *Knoxwether*; New Dance: Royal Ballet's *Four Seasons*; Set Design: Stephen Brimson Lewis, *Design for Living*; Outstanding Achievement in Speech: Roberto Alagna, *Armans et Juliette*; Outstanding Achievement in Dance: Peter Mumford, lighting design in *Four Seasons* and *The Glass Menagerie*; Best Theatre Choreographer: David Alden and Dain Perry for *Hot Shoe Shout*; American Screen Award for Best Musical: *Once On This Island*. The ceremony, at the Shaftesbury Theatre, will be televised today on BBC2.



Dame Lucie Rie, inspiration to potters, dies at 93

By MICHAEL HORSNELL

DAME LUCIE RIE, Britain's most distinguished potter, died at her home in London on Saturday aged 93. Dame Lucie, who was born in Vienna, fled the Nazis after the Anschluss in 1938 and moved to the mews studio near Marble Arch, complete with kiln, where she lived until her death. She had been in declining health since suffering a stroke five years ago. Her works have been exhibited around the world and are currently on show at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York. Pottery crafted by Dame Lucie has fetched high prices, including a vase with "volcanic" glaze which sold for £15,000. Dame Lucie's close friend, Cyril Franklin, a director of Bonhams auctioneers, was at her bedside when she died.

He said: "She was Britain's greatest living potter and her work was known around the world." Sir David Attenborough, a collector of her work who presented a BBC film of her life in 1982, said: "She was a small, quiet lady who would always dress in white, normally a trouser suit. She had an astonishing authority and would be able to prick pretension in a way that would leave you gasping. 'I have a number of pots of hers. She was the inspiration for potters of a generation who would admire her without copying her. She was extremely prolific in the colours and shapes she produced and never made anything the same twice.'"

Obituary, page 19

Five-pound frame hid a £30,000 landscape

By JOHN SHAW

AN UNKNOWN watercolour by Richard Parkes Bonington, the 19th-century British landscape artist, was discovered by Christie's in Paris yesterday.

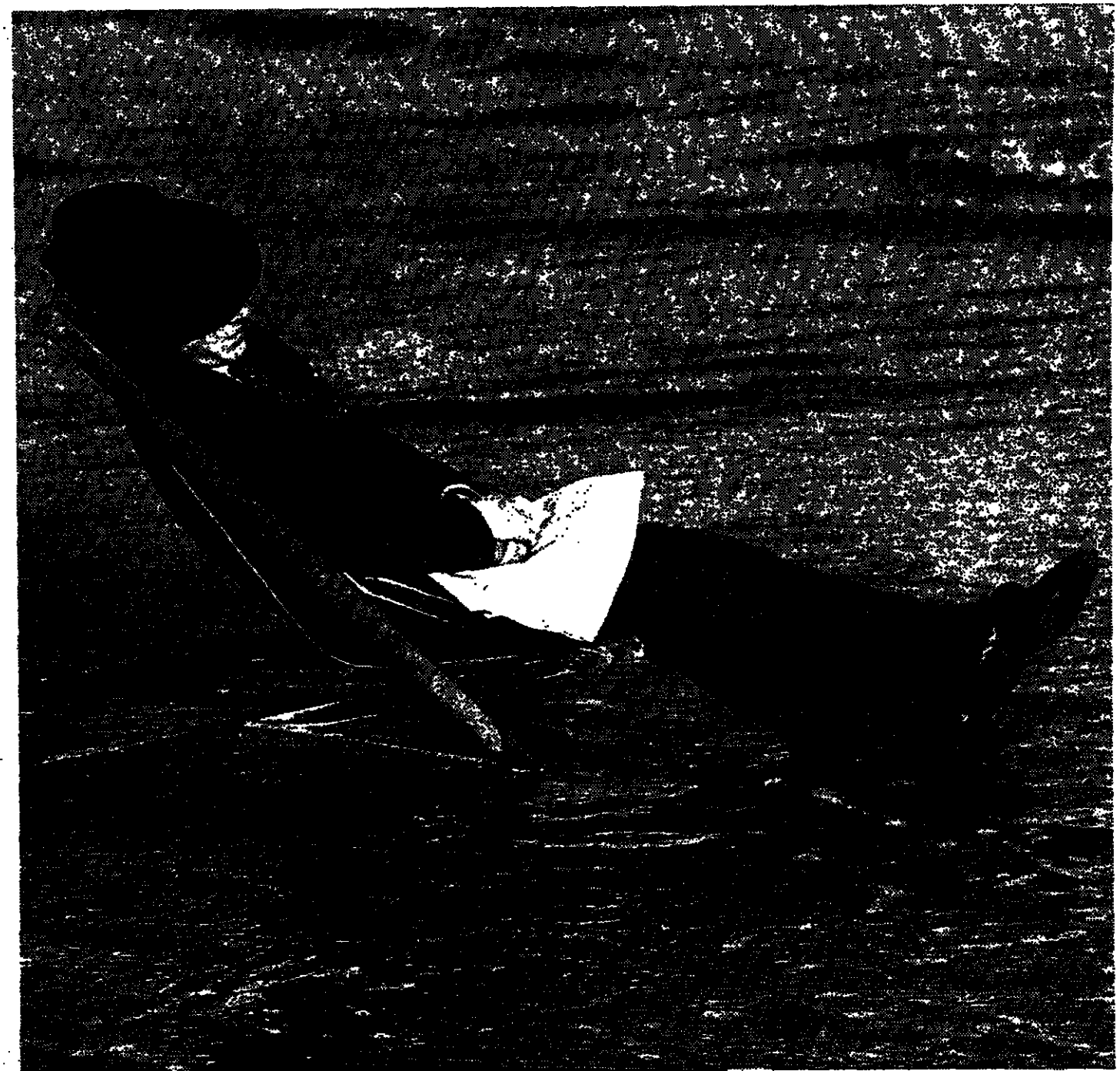
The painting, of a coastal view of Dunkirk, was identified only after the cheap frame was removed to reveal the artist's signature. It is thought to be worth £30,000. Andrew Clayton-Payne, head of the watercolour department at Christie's in London, who was in Paris at the time, said: "It was just one of those lucky things. It was a lovely little picture but it was in the cheapest frame imaginable, which probably cost about £5."

"The picture was close-framed and because there was no mount it covered up the signature and the date. It must have been like that for 30 or 40 years. The owner was quite unaware who it was by or what it was worth. We were all rather bowled over when we saw the name."

Bonington (1802-1828) was one of the most influential artists of his generation, whose virtuoso style attracted many English and French imitators. He was born near Nottingham but studied and worked in France. His style lent itself to landscape and the "new" picture probably comes from a group of watercolours usually dated about 1824.

The study, entitled *Dunkerque From the Sea*, will be sold at an auction of British drawings and watercolours in London on April 25.

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Officers demand counselling to cope with 'horrifying' cases

Police traumatised by inquiries into child sex abuse

By Stewart Tandler, Crime Correspondent

FIVE HUNDRED Scotland Yard officers working on cases of child abuse and domestic violence are being screened for stress risks after evidence of breakdowns and early retirements on medical grounds.

The workload of child protection teams has increased greatly. In two years recorded cases of sex attacks on children have risen from 305 to 494 and officers also examine many hundreds of other allegations.

There is increasing awareness among forces across the country that working on the teams can be dangerous for the long-term health of officers, some of whom may serve up to five years. Forces are being urged to monitor the health of staff, and a recent report on policing in south-west London, by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary, called on Scotland Yard to start routine checks by occupational health experts.

One London detective who worked with a child protection team and eventually became ill said: "My wife was against me doing the work because she thought I would be affected by it. She was right. Even the most horrific murders don't have the same effect as

the dreadful things perpetrated on children."

The cases included sexual assaults on children as young as two. The officer, who was sick for months, said: "The things that men are capable of doing is pretty horrifying and if you see it time and time again it makes you disgusted and ashamed."

No single case tipped the balance but he said he found himself changing from being relaxed and easy-going into becoming aggressive and wound up. He suffered memory loss, tinnitus and chest pains, and began to have domestic difficulties.

Another officer was found wandering the offices of a unit in tears and blaming himself for the death of a baby. One investigator, handling a case in which a father sold the sexual services of his nine-year-old daughter to a group of men, could not cope. In another team an officer was sent on sick leave after his colleagues noticed him sitting for hours at his desk unable to work.

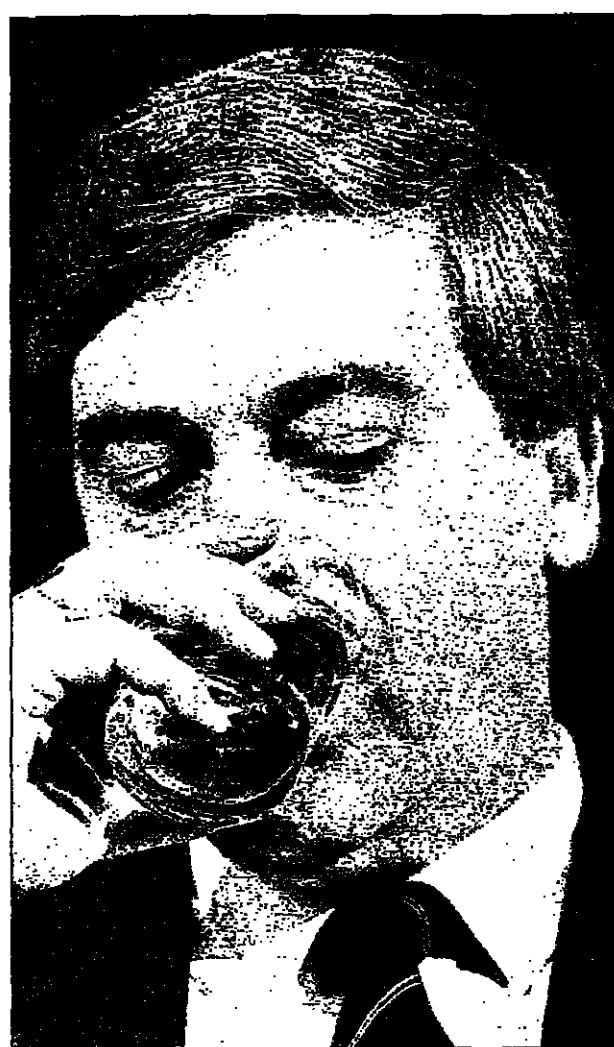
The Police Federation, which represents all ranks up to chief inspector, has begun the first detailed survey of the 60 domestic violence units and

the 26 child protection teams in London. Sergeant Michael Bennett, chairman of the Metropolitan branch of the federation and organiser of the survey, said there was concern about the availability of counselling. One senior officer set up a fund of only £140 to provide counselling for more than 30 officers.

Mr Bennett said he launched the survey after finding that officers were denying any effects on their private lives, yet were admitting that they sometimes broke down and cried for no reason or always had a drink as soon as they returned home.

WPC Jackie Cole, a former child protection team officer and now a representative for WPCs, said: "You go before a selection board for this work. You are given training but there is no system of debriefing or talking through the work. You deal with murder and appalling treatment of children but you can't unwind and talk about it."

She said there were cases in which officers had retired on medical grounds because of the stress. There were also fears that officers were refusing to recognise that they were suffering from stress because



Bennett: officers admitted breaking down in tears

they worried that they might be penalised when they applied for promotion or transfer to other units.

If an officer went sick with stress it would remain on their medical record, which would be examined before a transfer, she said. If they asked to move

from the work before their agreed tenure was complete, that could also count against them.

Scotland Yard said it could not comment on the survey or whether the advice to set up occupational health inspections had been taken up.

Test tube babies blessed with the best parents

By Jeremy Laurance, Health Services Correspondent

COUPLES who have test tube babies make better parents than those who have their babies naturally, psychologists have found.

Genetic ties are less important to a successful family than a strong desire for parenthood. Mothers and fathers of children conceived through in vitro fertilisation or donor insemination were more involved with their children than the parents of those conceived naturally.

A study of almost 200 families by researchers from City University, London, will help to allay fears that the new reproductive technologies are damaging families and child development.

The researchers found that mothers with a child conceived by assisted reproduction were warmer and more emotionally involved with their child than other mothers. The children conceived in the test tube, aged between four and eight, showed no differences in their emotions, behaviour or relationships from naturally conceived children, even when they had no genetic link with their parents.

Dr Rachel Cook, who led

the study presented at the annual conference of the British Psychological Society in Warwick yesterday, said: "Our findings show that you don't need to have genetic links with children to have good relationships with them. However, it may be different for different people. People for whom the genetic link was very important wouldn't undergo IVF. But we don't know what will happen when they



reach adolescence and issues about their origins become more important."

A study of children raised in lesbian families shows that most grow up to be heterosexual and have good relationships with parents and friends, including their fathers. A group of 21 young adults were studied at age 5 and again at age 23. The findings show that they are well-adjusted adults, although some were teased at school, but are more likely to explore same-sex relationships.

Let crying babies lie and mothers sleep

MOTHERS who lift their babies from their cots when they cry are more likely to have disturbed nights than those who leave them, according to a study.

A team from Warwick University found that mothers who responded to crying by picking up the child, walking up and down, feeding, taking into bed or changing the nappy were more likely to have children with sleeping problems than those who did less.

The study of 49 mothers found they were woken on average six times a week when their babies were a month old and twice a week when they were 17 months old. Those who took the baby

into the parental bed at one month old were likely to suffer more disturbed nights at 17 months old.

Professor David Messer, who presented the findings to the British Psychological Society's conference, said: "There was nothing that any mother did that made us think that's the solution, but there were some things that put them at higher risk of running into problems."

The best strategy appeared to be minimally to disturb the child, leaving it in its cot and feeding it or singing to it or cuddling it while it lay there. "Parents should follow their instincts," Professor Messer said. "There is no right or wrong way of doing things."

Teachers hampered by attitude to bullies

MEASURES by schools against bullying do work, according to a study presented to the conference.

Results from the Sheffield Bullying Project, carried out in four schools over four years showed that, over the period, children became more sympathetic to victims. They became more likely to say that they were upset by bullying and that they would try to help someone being bullied.

However, a survey of bullying in the schools found that while it had fallen among the boys, in three of the schools it had increased among the girls.

Mike Eslea, of the University of Sheffield, said that although most adults were sympathetic to the victims of bullying, some admired bullies and had no sympathy for children who told the teacher when they were teased. Teachers say that their work to stop bullying has been hampered by these attitudes.

Mr Eslea said that some parents were not keen on anti-bullying projects, instead encouraging their children simply to hit back if they were attacked. Of the 29 parents interviewed for the study, five agreed with the statement: "I can't stand kids who keep running to the teacher."

The sharp increase in deaths of drug users in Glasgow may be linked to injectors mixing the sleeping pill temazepam with heroin.

Dr Richard Hammersley, of the Behavioural Sciences Group at Glasgow University, told the conference that drug users who injected temazepam were at risk of memory loss, blackouts and behaving violently.

About one in 25 people in Scotland aged 16 to 30 takes the drug orally for its intoxicating effects, according to Dr Hammersley.

Missing the occasional meal does not affect memory or concentration. A study of 21 women over five weeks at the Institute of Food Research, Reading, found that when they starved themselves for 24 hours or missed one or two meals, their speed of reaction, concentration and memory were unaffected.

Study explains taboo of incest

By Nigel Hawkes, Science Editor

ADOPTED children who search out their natural parents and siblings years later often fall in love with them, a study at London University has shown.

The research casts a new light on the "incest taboo", suggesting that sex between close relations is uncommon more because familiarity reduces sexual desire than because of any strong cultural code.

Dr Maurice Greenberg and Professor Roland Littlewood, of University College London, have found a surprisingly high level of what post-adoption counsellors call "genetic sexual attraction" - a tendency to fall in love with mothers, sisters, brothers, or fathers when reintroduced to them as an adult. They report in *The British Journal of Medical Psychology* that more than 50

per cent of those counselled "experienced strong sexual feelings in reunions".

Those who experienced such emotions spoke of an intense, explosive and almost irresistible "falling in love". In several cases, sexual intimacy was seen to be an appropriate and almost inevitable response to these feelings. "It was something to do with recognition: it was like kinship, the proof you're finding each other. It was just mutual, unspoken," said one.

One man, a 22-year-old civil servant, describes meeting his mother and feeling an immediate, mutual attraction. A 35-year-old nurse traced her father and found "his skin felt like mine and he smelt like me". They went on to have a sexual relationship.

The relationships were often anticipated before the reunion

and frequently followed the detailed noting of physical similarities, personality and even smell. "He was me in another body," one young woman said about a brother with whom she had an affair.

The scientists say that the theory of Edward Westermarck, a 19th-century anthropologist, that incest is rare in all societies not because inbreeding increases the risk of genetic disease, but because close proximity over a long period reduces sexual interest. This thesis is also supported by the study of non-related children raised together in Israeli kibbutzim, who seldom develop sexual relationships.

"The cultural taboo merely serves to underline society's distaste at something which has generally been unlikely," the scientists conclude.

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A hernia stitch in time will save pain, trouble and lives

Dr Thomas
Stuttaford

Michael Foot, who had a hernia operation at the Royal Free Hospital, Hampstead, at the weekend, is setting an example to all other octogenarians by having his hernia repaired.

Hernias - the older term of rupture is not always accurate - only become dangerous when they strangulate. In that condition the small weak patch in the abdominal wall through which the guts have been thrust is so tight that it acts as a ligature around the piece of intestine that is in the hernia, which in turn starves of blood can become gangrenous.

A hernia treated by surgery during the day by an experienced surgeon, with his trained team, and full anaesthetic staff, and while the patient is relaxed and pain free is very safe and quite different from an emergency operation, perhaps in the middle of the night, when relatively junior staff, possibly

already tired, may be coping. Patients, whether newborn or aged, should have their hernia repaired as soon as it is feasible after diagnosis.

Hernias can occur at any age. In the case of babies born with umbilical hernia so that their belly buttons protrude, elderly relatives should be prevented from trying to pop their navels back and keep them in check with a coin tightly strapped to the baby's skin with plaster. An overwhelming majority of them disappear spontaneously within a year or two.

Babies, particularly premature ones, may also be born with an inguinal hernia in the groin, which nature will not cure. As they can strangulate, operations should be carried out when they are diagnosed or as soon as the baby is over

five pounds. Ninety per cent of hernias affect the groin, 8.5 per cent the umbilicus and 1.5 per cent are rarer forms. Ruptures may occur in older patients because of weakness in the abdominal wall, although they can also occur in the young and athletic.

There is controversy over the best method of repair. Endoscopic, key-hole surgery is increasingly advocated but there are risks, which some doctors consider too high. Improved forms of open traditional surgery are now available that can be carried out under sedation and local anaesthesia rather than under a general anaesthetic.

Not long ago a patient of mine, the master of a livery company, had a hernia repaired by traditional surgery on a Friday after work, was presiding at his company's dinner the next Monday and was able to stand as straight as a ramrod when he proposed the Royal toast.

Mawhinney acts to pacify drivers over M25 delays

By Jonathan Prynn, Transport Correspondent

TRIAL measures to reduce delays on the M25 will be announced by Brian Mawhinney today in an attempt to reassure motorists that he has not abandoned the battle against road congestion.

In a Commons statement, the Transport Secretary will confirm that plans for a 14-lane superhighway in Surrey have been scrapped on environmental grounds in favour of a more politically acceptable mix of proposals. These will include some limited road-widening on the busiest part of the M25, the introduction of advanced "congestion-busting" traffic management technology and plans for improved public transport links with London.

The proposal still means that an extra lane in each direction will have to be built between junctions 12 and 16, the busiest stretch of motorway in Europe, to create Britain's first 10-lane motorway. However, because ten lanes can be contained within the existing limits of the road no public inquiry will be necessary. The 10-lane option, opposed by some local residents' groups, is supported by Surrey County Council.

The widening will provide some relief on a 15-mile stretch of motorway that carries up to 200,000 vehicles a day and serves as a feeder route for Heathrow but is often clogged with nose-to-tail queues of traffic.

The proposals reflect the Transport Secretary's anxiety

not to alienate car drivers by appearing to embrace too enthusiastically the arguments of environmentalists.

At the Conservative Central Council meeting in Birmingham on Saturday he heaped praise on car ownership as the embodiment of the Tory values of "freedom, choice, opportunity and responsibility". Speaking yesterday on BBC's *Breakfast* with *Frost*, he described the M25 as "one of the great liberating roads of this country".

However, the Tory supporting roads lobby remains deeply suspicious of the Government's increasing willingness to accept environmentalists' arguments.

In his announcement today Dr Mawhinney will also tell MPs of plans for the introduction of new technology that automatically reduces the motorway speed limit when it detects very heavy traffic levels.

Studies have shown that drivers get most frustrated by the "stop-start" driving conditions typical of the M25 rather than a slow but steady flow of vehicles. The equipment is to begin trials on the M25 next month. More radical proposals, unlikely to be announced today but still under consideration, include more traffic lights at M25 slip roads and even the closure of some sliproads at peak traffic times.

Dr Mawhinney will emphasise the importance of improving public transport, to tempt people away from their cars. Today's statement will also reflect the new government view that because of the extra traffic new roads generate, it is not always practical to build them as a response to every congestion problem. "People will have to accept that there is some degree of congestion at some times in the day that you cannot build out of," a senior government source said.

Despite the Transport Secretary's commitment to widen the M25, the Government's roads programme is still under immense pressure from the Treasury, with £700 million hacked from the road-building budget over the next three years.



Mawhinney: to tell MPs of trial measures

Man killed in minibus accident

A man died yesterday when a minibus carrying members of a gospel choir from Peckham, southeast London, overturned on the M6. A woman in the bus, which somersaulted on to the central reservation near the Stoke-on-Trent south exit, was flown to hospital with serious injuries. Police say the bus careered across two lanes when a tyre burst.

Falcons thriving

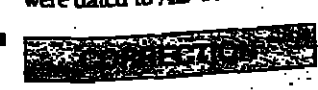
Numbers of peregrine falcons have nearly doubled since before the Second World War to over 1,280 breeding pairs, according to the British Trust for Ornithology. The population has increased by two thirds since the last survey in 1981.

River death

A 21-year-old man from Leeds having a football kickabout with a friend and two children near the River Wharfe at Bolton Abbey, North Yorkshire, was swept to his death after wading into the water to retrieve the ball.

Weevil of drink

The landlord of the Black Lion in St Albans, Hertfordshire, is claiming the oldest pub site in Britain after two dead weevils, believed to have arrived with Roman soldiers, were discovered in a maling oven and were dated to AD 60 to 250.



A photograph published on Friday in connection with a report about Jonathan Aitken and the sale of arms to Iran was wrongly captioned. It was a photograph of Christopher Gumbley, former chief executive of Astra Holdings, and not John Anderson, a director of Astra. It was Mr Anderson whose misleading statements were referred to in the DTI report. We apologise for the mistake.

Football fans trade their anthems on the Internet

By Ben Preston, Education Correspondent

FOOTBALL fanatics are going on-line as the information superhighway offers a new avenue for their obsession. Followers of more than 40 clubs have launched computer "fanzines" on the Internet.

Supporters are harnessing the network that links computer-users across the globe to trade jokes, terrace anthems, match reports, photographs and reams of statistics about their favourite teams. Crystal Palace is the only Premier League team without an on-line fanzine. Half of the 24 first division clubs have started one, as well as a handful of non-league clubs such as Barrow AFC and Halifax Town.

Academics, advertising executives, scientists and students are frequent contributors to the often irreverent fanzines. Players are abused more often than praised as fans use electronic mail to debate their team's performance. Trivia questions ask, for example, which team conceded a goal from inside the six-yard box to a German called Uwe in two successive games this season? (answer: Watford).

The Arsenal fanzine includes a place for "net surfers" (readers) to swap terrace chants, which can then be printed out as a song-sheet for matchdays. The latest includes alternative but hardly inspired lyrics to Sheryl



Paul Neve, editor of Millwall's computerised fanzine *You'll Never Make The Station*, keeps "surfers" in touch

Crowe's hit single *All I Wanna Do*. "What we're gonna do, is beat the scum, then we'll show, we are London's number one."

A "Where Are They Now?" section invites surfers to help to track former players. It discloses, for example, that Sammy Nelson, the former Arsenal left back, is an insurance salesman in Brighton.

The fanzines appeal to particularly passionate supporters. One Swindon Town fan, a research scientist for Uni-

versity, confessed on-line that previously, when exiled at university, his mother would take down local radio reports in shorthand and read them to him over the telephone.

Goh Mui, 29, from Hong Kong, e-mailed to say that he flew in specially last season to watch Swindon play Manchester United at Old Trafford even though his team was doomed to relegation. He said: "It cost me

£1,500 but I wouldn't have missed it for the world."

Paul Neve, a 21-year-old graduate computer analyst, started an on-line fanzine for Millwall supporters in September. It is called *You'll Never Make The Station*, an ironic reference to the violent reputation of some of the east London club's supporters. He said: "One surfer from the United States e-mailed to say he was at school with Millwall's American goal-

keeper, Kasey Keller, and asked whether we wanted to pass on any messages to his family. We told him that Kasey should stop dribbling around his penalty area."

Tony Barry, senior copy writer at the Lowe Howard-Spink advertising agency, a committed surfer and Millwall season ticket-holder, said: "This is the new executive toy. My wife complains she is a computer widow so I have to use it after midnight."

Luton Town supporters run one of the most sophisticated fanzines, *WHOSH*. *Worldwide Hatters On the Super Highway*. Local radio commentators, extracts from newspaper reports and eyewitness accounts from home and away fans give surfers more than 20 views on the same match.

Liam Madden, a lecturer at Imperial College, London, who founded the service with an academic at Oxford, said fanzines for clubs in the lower divisions tended to be better than those for famous rivals: "We are a bit more fanatical in our obscurity. It's a wonderful way of meeting up with kindred spirits."

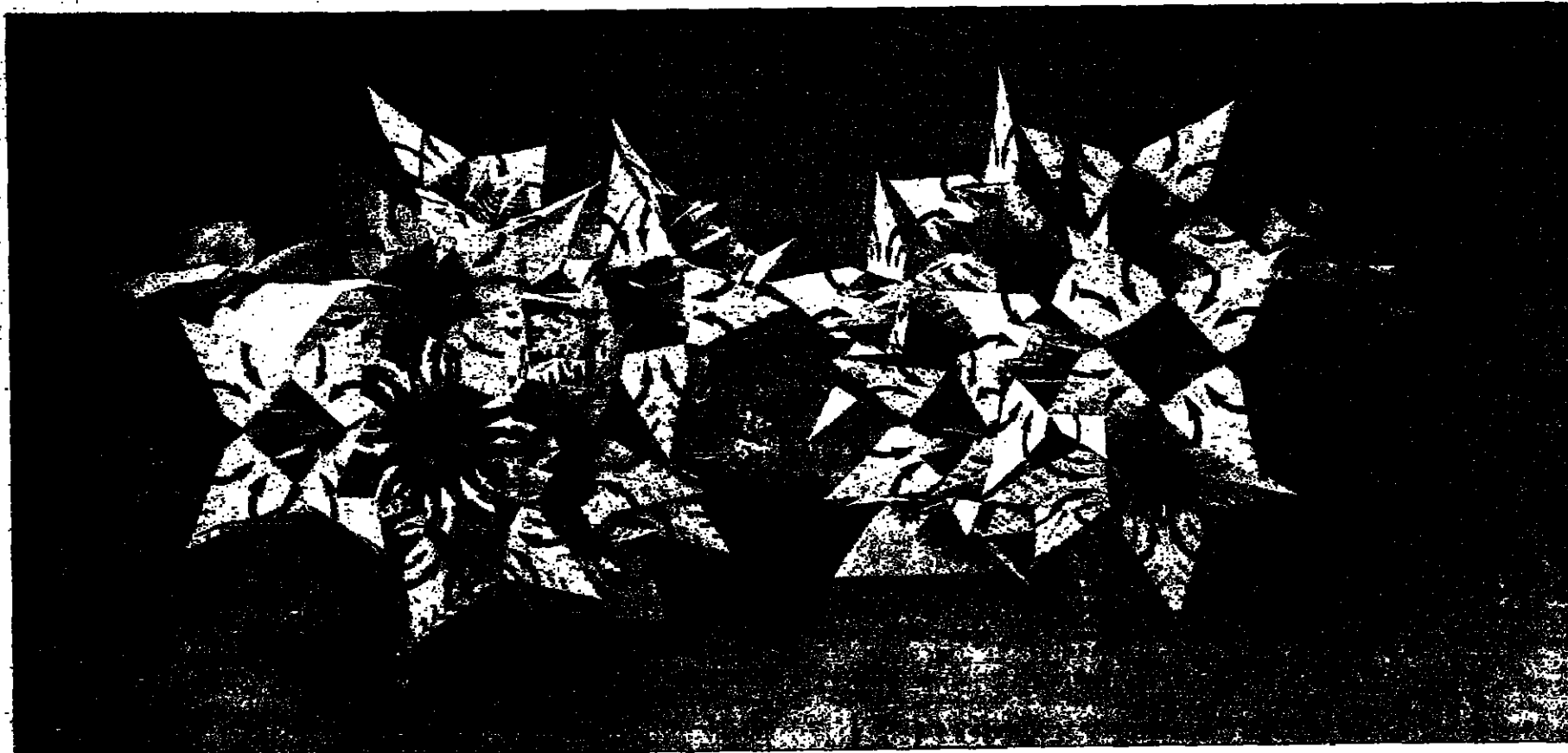
WHOSH has more than 100 regular contributors and followers, including eight in America, three in Australia, and others in Sweden, New Zealand, Norway, Singapore, Malaysia and France. The service has close links with the club, even sponsoring the kit of one of its players, Jamie Woodford.

Liverpool has three on-line fanzines. One of Reading's two is *Hab Nob Anyone?*, which is trying to attract on-line Jimmy Quinn, the club's joint manager, so that supporters can send him e-mail. Third division Colchester has attracted 127 surfers in ten days.

You'll Never Make The Station can be found at: [HTTP://ZIPPY.SPDS.DCS.KCL.AC.UK/LOCCY](http://zippy.spods.dcs.kcl.ac.uk/loccy)

Sport, pages 21-33

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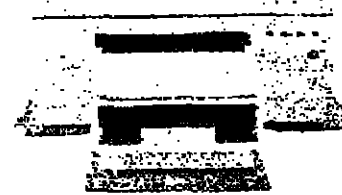
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Scottish Tories may lose control of all but one council

By GILLIAN BOWDITCH, SCOTLAND CORRESPONDENT

THE Conservative Party could be reduced to controlling only one council in Scotland after this week's local government elections, according to independent political observers.

The Conservatives, who are currently in third place in the Scottish opinion polls, control six district councils outright and jointly control a seventh. But a recent analysis by the *Local Government Chronicle* suggests that they may win control only of East Renfrewshire when the votes are cast on Thursday.

The elections represent the culmination of a large overhaul in Scottish local government, and the Tories were accused of gerrymandering when the changes were first announced. The new system will do away with the nine regional councils and 53 district councils and will replace them with 26 single-tier local authorities. The three island councils will be unchanged.

The councillors elected next month will shadow the exist-

ing ones for a year to allow the new councils time to organise themselves and to allow an orderly handover of services. The new councillors will take up office from April 1 next year.

The Conservatives are fielding 583 candidates for the 1,161 seats. At present they have 205 district and 31 regional councillors. Political analysts suggest that this could be reduced to a total of 100.

Officials at the party's headquarters in Edinburgh are doggedly optimistic. "We are confident we will get our message out there to the electorate. We will be concentrating on lower council tax and more efficient services," a spokesman said. But he admitted that national and constitutional issues might dominate the local elections. "That is a challenge we will have to face."

The Scottish National Party, which has had a strong year in the opinion polls, is fielding 998 candidates, the largest number of any political party.

At present the SNP has 73 regional and 150 district councillors. It controls the district councils of Angus, West Lothian and Lochaber, Tayside Regional Council and has joint control of Grampian. The party, which took 26.7 per cent of the vote at last year's regional elections, expects to make gains in the Central belt, Highland and in Perth and Kinross, where it also expects to win the forthcoming parliamentary by-election.

Labour, which holds the bulk of local authority seats with 650 councillors, has control of 21 of the 65 district, regional and island authorities. It is fielding 941 candidates and is confident of maintaining its lead.

The Liberal Democrats, who hold 97 district and 62 regional seats, are fielding 529 candidates. They have outright control of North East Fife and Annandale and Eskdale at district level, and at regional level share control of Grampian, Borders and Dumfries and Galloway. A party spokesman said the Liberals hoped to take more than 100 seats across the board, with particular emphasis on Aberdeen, Edinburgh, East Renfrewshire and Perth and Kinross.

Scottish Militant Labour is fielding 30 candidates, mainly in Glasgow and mainly standing against SNP and Labour councillors. It now has four councillors in Glasgow and is optimistic that it will form the official opposition there.

The Natural Law Party has 16 candidates, 13 of whom will contest seats in Edinburgh. It is also considering putting up a candidate in the Perth and Kinross parliamentary by-election. In addition there is a plethora of independent hopefuls, taking the total number of candidates standing in the elections to about 3,000.



David Fine and Alison Snowden are considering an offer from Warner Brothers to export their expertise

Hollywood lures Oscar winners

By ALEXANDRA FREAN, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

THE British-based couple who won an Oscar last week for a 12-minute animated film about a doleful dentist have been offered a lucrative Hollywood deal.

Warner Brothers, creators of Bugs Bunny, Daffy Duck and Road Runner, asked Alison Snowden, from Nottingham, and her Canadian husband David Fine to make a multimillion-pound feature film when they were in Los Angeles to collect their Academy Award for *Bob's Birthday*.

When the couple returned to their studio above a dentist's surgery in Carnaby Street, London, on Friday, they found a giant bouquet from Warner Brothers. The accompanying note said: "Congratulations on your Oscar. We look forward to a long association."

Warner first asked Snowden and Fine to produce an animated film with musical accompaniment but the company has now asked them to come up with their own ideas. Ms Snowden said: "I think they want to try something more edgy and a little less sentimental than Disney."

Mr Fine added that if they did accept an offer from Warner it might mean moving to Los Angeles. "It is very gratifying to be asked. They said it would take three years

to make, so it would be more than a career decision if we went. It would be a life decision."

Ms Snowden said that they had been inundated with offers and messages of congratulations in the past week. "For the first time in our lives we may even have to turn down things that we would otherwise like to have done."

The couple met while studying at the National Film and Television School in Beaconsfield, Buckinghamshire. Before they make any firm decisions about Hollywood they have a number of projects to complete, starting with an animated public information advertisement for the Inland Revenue.

They are also developing a children's cartoon series for Carlton Television and are

planning to turn *Bob's Birthday* into a 13-part series for Channel 4 and to make a short film for the BBC. In addition, Mr Fine is making a pilot for a live-action situation comedy for Channel 4.

Although both Ms Snowden, who studied graphic design at college in Coventry, and Mr Fine, who started drawing cartoons aged 13, went to film school wanting to make live films, they chose animation because the opportunities seemed so much greater. "You can show a student animation at a film festival and nobody can tell it from any other film," Ms Snowden said.

Her final student animated film, *Second Class Mail*, which Mr Fine also worked on, was nominated for an Oscar in 1984.

Lakeland university would harness heritage

By BEN PRESTON, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

PLANS to create a university in one of England's most thinly populated regions will be unveiled today, reflecting renewed demand for the expansion of higher education.

The University of the Lakes in Cumbria would draw together existing colleges in an attempt to harness the area's beauty and scientific resources to invigorate the local economy. The proposals, drawn up by Dale Campbell-Savours, Labour MP for Workington, include a campus at Ambleside that would act as a focus for the Lake District's artistic and literary heritage, housing a collection of Wordsworth's manuscripts. The Government's decision two years ago to grant polytechnics full university status encouraged a flurry of applications from areas concerned that they were missing out on the higher education boom. Student numbers have doubled in the past eight years.

Separate groups are working to form universities in Lincoln, Gloucester and the Highlands and Islands. In each case, business is providing an impetus as it recognises the potential of universities to stimulate the local economy.

Mr Campbell-Savours began work on his plan five years ago, originally envisaging a polytechnic for the region. He claims enthusiastic support from all parts of Cumbria, where A-level results are better than average but participation in higher education is still relatively low. Mr Campbell-Savours said: "The new university will attract students from throughout Britain and internationally, as it is based in one of the most famous and beautiful environments in the world, which the university will serve to enhance and protect."

Campus sites across the region would be linked by an advanced electronic network. Subjects offered would include marine biology, environmental protection and nuclear science.

Education, 1995

Church accuses Prince of 'glorying in shame'

THE Prince of Wales has been accused of "glorying in his shame" as an adulterer by the Free Presbyterian Church.

The attack, which likens his conduct to that of the "debauched and perfidious" Stuart kings, comes in the church's monthly magazine, edited by the Rev John MacLeod of Stornoway, Isle of Lewis. He says the Prince does not measure up to being "a faithful Protestant", as demanded by the Accession Declaration.

"To all appearances, he would not be prepared to take

the Coronation Oath in its present form," Mr MacLeod writes. "That is a matter of real concern to loyal Protestant subjects. But there are also revelations concerning his personal life and conduct which have to be taken into consideration. Far from acknowledging his conduct as sinful, he, in making it so widely known, appears to be glorying in his shame."

The Prince is criticised for being scathing about exclusive forms of evangelism represented by groups such as the Free Presbyterians.

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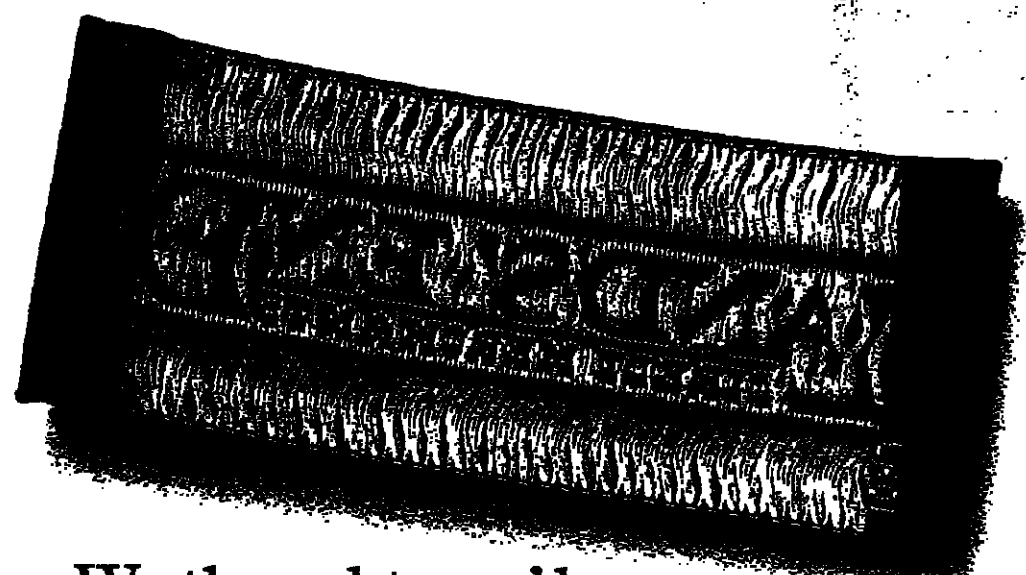
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Washington and London concentrate their talks on areas of policy agreement

Clinton team confident rift with Britain will be healed

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER AND PETER RIDDELL IN WASHINGTON

THE White House sought to smooth over the rift in Anglo-American relations as John Major flew to Washington last night for a potentially fraught two-day visit.

Anthony Lake, President Clinton's national security adviser, convened a rare week-end briefing for British journalists at which he dismissed last month's dispute over Mr Clinton's red-carpet treatment of Gerry Adams, the Sinn Féin leader, as a mere tactical disagreement and said that the "special relationship" remained robust. "The fact is that for 50 years for both of our nations this relationship is much the closest military, nuclear and intelligence relationship for either of us," he said.

Mr Lake argued that the real measure of the importance of the Anglo-American relationship was the number of international security issues on the agenda for the Prime



Gingrich will be told the British view on Bosnia

Minister's three hours of talks with Mr Clinton tomorrow, and certainly neither side wants to see the White House meeting dominated by the Adams dispute.

Top of the agenda is Bosnia, where the agreed ceasefire ends this month. Both leaders are concerned about the dan-

gers for United Nations peacekeepers and Western unity if the conflict reignites and the Administration shares Britain's opposition to efforts by Robert Dole, the Senate majority leader, to persuade Washington that America should lift unilaterally the UN arms embargo.

Mr Lake suggested that the President would veto any such measure and the Prime Minister will underline Britain's opposition in meetings on Capitol Hill with Newt Gingrich, the House Speaker, and the new Republican congressional leadership.

Mr Clinton and Mr Major will discuss how to handle President Yeltsin in the light of his recent lurch towards authoritarianism and Moscow's suppression of the Chechenian revolt. They will also review plans for tackling Russia's opposition to Nato's eventual eastward expansion.

The two men will explore

ways of tightening sanctions against Libya to persuade Colonel Muammar Gaddafi to surrender the two agents charged with the Lockerbie bombing, although Britain considers the Administration's call last week for an international embargo against Libya an oil unrealistic. They will discuss the Middle East peace process and the importance of UN sanctions against Iraq.

"On all these issues the US and United Kingdom are working closely," Mr Lake said. "Whenever any of these issues come up and we start talking about international efforts, my first thought goes to London and how we can work together on them."

Mr Clinton may also update Mr Major on British plans to order from America between 70 and 100 Tomahawk cruise missiles, costing about \$300 million (£184 million).

On Northern Ireland, Mr Lake said that Mr Clinton's



President Clinton, on holiday in his home state of Arkansas, lines up a putt at a golf course in Little Rock

decision to admit Mr Adams to America last year despite vehement British protests had fostered the present ceasefire and that he believed the President's decision to receive the

Sinn Féin leader at the White House and let him raise funds would also pay dividends. Mr Lake lamented the "nasty" attitude of various British commentators and politicians

towards Mr Clinton, but said he had "no doubt the relationship is so strong, and the personal relationship between the President and Prime Minister is so strong, that we will

get right through this as we did a previous bad patch almost a year ago".

Concorde flight, page 1
Peter Riddell, page 16

Mother to plead in person for Death Row son

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN NEW YORK

THE mother of the British-born man facing execution on Georgia's death row will fly to Washington today to plead with John Major for her son's life as the Prime Minister begins a two-day visit to the American capital.

Last week, as lawyers for the convicted man sought a stay of execution, Ann Ingram wrote an emotional letter to Mr Major, begging him to put pressure on the authorities in an attempt to save her son, Nicholas Ingram, 32, who is scheduled to die in Georgia's electric chair on Thursday. Before leaving for Washington

to change his mind by making an appeal to him in person.

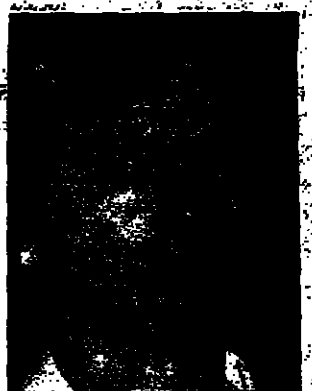
"I am going to fly up to Washington DC... in a final effort to plead with you for my son's life," she wrote. "I do feel as a British citizen that I have the right to at least an explanation of why it is not proper for Her Majesty's Government to intervene to save the life of my son, your citizen. I am sure that you are very busy with the affairs of state, but will meet me at any time, at any place. My son's life means everything to me."

Ingram was born in Cambridge and moved to America with his mother and American father as a child. He has dual nationality. In 1983, he was convicted of the murder of a middle-aged neighbour in Cobb County, Georgia, during a botched burglary, and sentenced to die in the electric chair.

Clive Stafford Smith, his British-born lawyer, has filed a civil rights law suit against the Georgia State Executioner, claiming that death by electrocution amounts to "cruel and unusual punishment" and demanding a stay of execution. Mr Stafford Smith plans to present new evidence to the Georgia Board of Pardons and Paroles, which he believes will show his client was wrongly convicted. The board meets on Wednesday, 24 hours before the execution is scheduled.

The lawyer maintains that during Ingram's trial in 1983, the prosecution knew he was taking the drug Thorazine but his defence lawyers did not. "You can't try a case with the accused drugged up to the gills on psychotropic medication without letting the defence know," he said.

Mr Stafford Smith also plan to cite evidence from two medical experts who say that Ingram fits the legal definition of insanity and suffers from alcoholic amnesia.



Ann Ingram: hopes to meet John Major in US

last night, the Prime Minister sent a handwritten letter to Mrs Ingram, saying he would not intervene on behalf of the convicted man.

"I have concluded, with the deepest regret, that there are no proper grounds for the British Government to intervene with the state of Georgia," Mr Major wrote. "I found your letter very moving and I can imagine the profound distress you must be feeling."

Mrs Ingram, who has moved to Atlanta to be near her son on Death Row, responded that she would try to persuade the Prime Minister

Amish sect driven apart by tractor

FROM GILES WHITTELL IN LOS ANGELES

A REMOTE Amish community in southern Oklahoma is breaking up, amid unwelcome media attention, over a decision by one of its members to buy a tractor.

The Amish, a Mennonite Christian sect with devout and deeply traditional ways, have been migrating westward across the United States since their forebears arrived in Pennsylvania from Germany in 1720.

Twenty-six families bought land in Clarita, Oklahoma, in the late 1970s and farmed it without electricity or internal combustion engines. Now, driven by Herman Stutzman's tractor and the stubborn Oklahoma soil, at least ten of them are leaving.

Mr Stutzman runs a 282-acre farm with 48 dairy cows, some mixed crops, and 30 sows. His plan to buy a tractor for ploughing cut to the heart of the perennial Amish dilemma

of adapting to the evils of modern life. "It's like the domino theory," says Steve Scott of the People's Place, an Amish and Mennonite educational centre in Intercourse, Pennsylvania. "They feel that tractors are the first step towards cars, which throw you into the fast pace of modern life and all that entails."

Mr Stutzman's proposal failed to win unanimous backing at a meeting of church elders, but he bought the tractor anyway. Rather than risk confrontation, his neighbours are returning to the east.

"Our church has rules," says Daniel Master, a weaver and former dairy farmer who is moving with his wife to Iowa.

"If there's any that don't feel comfortable, they can move out," says Mr Master. "Some try to paint us as angels who never disagree. But we're just like anyone else."

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Repudiation of promise to Buthelezi rekindles secession threat



Sexwale: faces order for mass dismissals

BY R.W. JOHNSON

BEHIND the opposition to the African National Congress's latest blueprint for a South African constitution lies the fear that it is a mere fig-leaf to cover the reality of centralist ANC rule, especially since feeling is growing within the party against continuing with the present coalition Government of National Unity.

The issue of federalism, espoused by F.W. de Klerk's National Party and the small liberal Democratic Party — and passionately advocated by Mangosuthu Buthelezi's Inkatha Freedom Party — brought the original constitutional negotiations to a halt last year, nearly preventing the country's first democratic elections. Agreement was struck when the

ANC yielded to Inkatha's demand for international mediation. Now, however, in Inkatha's fury, the ANC has reneged on that commitment, and Inkatha stands poised again to walk out of the Constituent Assembly, and to refuse to acknowledge the legitimacy of whatever constitution emerges from it.

Talk of secession is in the air again, this time not just of Inkatha-ruled KwaZulu/Natal, but of the National Party-ruled Western Cape. The Inkatha majority in the KwaZulu/Natal legislature has gone so far as to demand a new constitution, creating a new Upper House of chiefs headed by Chief Buthelezi, and insisting that national laws can be invalidated by the regional legislature. The very fact

that KwaZulu/Natal and the Western Cape have federalist administrations elected on the basis of universal suffrage means that the fight will be more than just a replay this time. Many of the ANC-led governments in the other seven regions have also developed an appetite for regional autonomy. They, too, can be expected to resist any purely centralist solution. Naturally, Chief Buthelezi has been working hard to create alliances with some of these regional premiers.

A further twist has been given by the Government's dramatic reallocation of resources among the regions. The most severely affected is ANC-ruled Gauteng, which includes Johannesburg and Pretoria and produces 37.4 per cent of South

Africa's gross domestic product but which is to get only 16 per cent of the central Government's allocation to the regions. This means that Tokyo Serwale, the ANC premier of Gauteng, is being told he will have to dismiss many teachers and civil servants, and shut a number of schools and hospitals. Naturally Gauteng is furious.

The Western Cape is also hard hit, and there is talk of similarly tough cuts there, although the complaints of the region's National Party administration are somewhat dulled by the fact that the privileged Western Cape is still being handed out more than its contribution to the exchequer.

The position of KwaZulu/Natal is the most ironic, for the Government has decreed a large real increase in

allocations to the region. The significance of this largesse is not lost on the region's business community, which can be expected to blow very cold indeed on any hint of secession. This sets a limit to what Chief Buthelezi can achieve by threats of a walkout. His only real trump card is to threaten to leave the Government, for President Mandela, whatever his party may say, is keen that the Government of National Unity should continue and that Chief Buthelezi should remain within it.

None the less, the ANC's new constitutional draft will be a red rag to the Inkatha bull, and South Africa's political temperature, highly charged by the approach of the country's first democratic local elections, will be heated further.



Buthelezi: looking for allies in other regions

ANC rebuffs coalition partners over federalism

FROM RAY KENNEDY IN JOHANNESBURG AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

SOUTH AFRICA'S Government of National Unity was heading for a serious rift yesterday after the African National Congress rebuffed its partners, Mangosuthu Buthelezi's Inkatha Freedom Party and the National Party.

A two-day ANC conference on the country's future constitution ended with remarks by Cyril Ramaphosa, its Secretary-General, which appeared to rule out coalition rule for up to 20 years as envisaged by the Nationalists, or the Canadian-

to be granted a greater degree of autonomy.

Mr Ramaphosa also rejected proposals by Roelf Meyer, the Nationalists' constitutional spokesman, that some aspects of the Government of National Unity should be retained for at least ten years after the next election, planned for 1999. He said: "The Government must be formed by the majority party. The NP can eat its heart out."

The Senate comprises ten members from each of the nine provinces, appointed on the basis of the votes their parties received in the election. Bills concerning provincial matters must be passed by the Senate. There are five Inkatha senators for KwaZulu/Natal and three from the ANC. The Western Cape has six Nationalist and three ANC senators. All the other provinces have ANC majorities. Mr Ramaphosa said the conference had agreed that the provinces should decide collectively what powers they should be granted, but that no single province should be a law unto itself. In effect, that means that KwaZulu/Natal and the Western Cape would be a perpetual minority.

Earlier, Thabo Mbeki, the First Deputy President, had taken a hard line over Inkatha's mediation demands, telling delegates that the Constituent Assembly would be the paramount forum for drafting the constitution. "Our people have not hollered at the world outside to tell them what kind of constitutional order is best," he described the present interim constitution as "necessary to end the system of white-minority domination," but added: "As the majority party, we are ready and capable of governing."

Seven killed in township clashes

Johannesburg: Seven people were killed and 33 hurt in a fresh outbreak of political and ethnic violence in South African townships, police said yesterday. Monitors said the killings, in several incidents near Johannesburg, were the first serious clashes in recent months in the region, where supporters of the ANC and Inkatha fought often in the past. (Reuters)

style federalism demanded by Inkatha. Mr Ramaphosa said delegates had indicated that the country should not be fragmented: "Our proposals should finally resolve this debate between federalism and unitarism, so that our country is not fragmented."

Chief Buthelezi had said that Inkatha would walk out of the Constituent Assembly on Wednesday unless the ANC honours a promise made before last April's election to put to foreign mediation his demand for KwaZulu/Natal



Rwandan Hutu children watch soldiers in Burundi about 40 miles from the Tanzanian border which has been closed to them since the flight

Hutu refugees give up attempt to flee Burundi

FROM SAM KILEY IN BUREMBURA

TENS of thousands of Rwandan Hutu refugees yesterday abandoned their attempt to flee Burundi and began the two-day trek back to their camps after neighbouring Tanzania closed its border.

Many of the refugees, who have lived in Burundi since escaping retribution for their alleged part in the genocide of Rwanda's Tutsi minority last year, live in fear of being attacked by Burundi's Tutsi-dominated army.

Patrick Nyozima, a member of the clandestine Tutsi militia Sans Echec, says Bu-



rundi is involved in a low-level civil war. "We are at war. We must meet violence with violence," he said during an interview in a small safe house in a Tutsi-dominated suburb in the north of the

capital, Bujumbura. Mr Nyozima and his two comrades, Frank Nahayo, a karate black belt, and Jean-Paul Manyatiza, who said he had received military training in Uganda, formed an intimidating militia ending a mixture of paranoia, machismo, and menace. The aim of Sans Echec, they said, was to "defend our people against the Hutu militia".

A week ago, however, it was the Tutsi militia and the army which attacked Bujumbura's Hutu districts, leaving up to 500 people dead and emptying the city of all Hutus apart from well-armed extremists in Kamenge suburb. Yesterday,

three people were killed and three wounded there, in a shootout between Hutu militias and Tutsi soldiers.

Arms from Rwandan Hutus, who fled their country after the victory of the Tutsi-led Rwandan Patriotic Front, have started to filter into Burundi, upsetting a balance of terror between the Tutsi-dominated army, representing 15 per cent of the population, and the Hutus, who make up the 85 per cent majority.

Since last week's clashes, it has become clear that the army and Sans Echec see safety only in a form of apartheid. The Tutsis want

the cities and control of commerce. The Hutus, who shelter at night in banana groves because they dare not sleep in the capital, must remain in the countryside.

The Government, with a Tutsi Prime Minister and Hutu President, shares power on a 40:60 ratio, but has done nothing to reassure either community. [Kigali: Trials of people accused over last year's genocide in Rwanda will begin on April 6, the anniversary of the deaths in a plane crash of the Rwandan and Burundian Presidents, which sparked the massacres, it was announced yesterday. (AFP)]

Cult 'linked to nuclear weapons'

FROM REUTERS IN TOKYO

THE secretive cult being investigated in connection with the recent gas attacks in Tokyo may also have been trying to develop germ and nuclear weapons, according to newspaper reports yesterday.

Police searching a follower who fled the Aum Shinrikyo (Supreme Truth) facilities after the gas attacks found a secret document on uranium enrichment, the *Mainichi* newspaper said. Police suspect that the religious sect made the gas that killed 11 people and injured 5,000 on the Tokyo subway on March 20. The eleven victims, Katsuki Tanaka, 53, died in hospital on Saturday night of acute kidney failure caused by the gas. Tokyo police said yesterday.

The newly discovered document belonged to a large heavy machinery company and referred to the use of lasers, which might in future be used to enrich uranium. Mainichi said.

The man in possession of the document, a member of the sect's science and technology agency, had been arrested for obstructing police after he fled from the cult's premises the day after the attacks. Police also found in his car aluminium alloy vaporisers of the same type found at Kasumigaseki station, one target of the gas attacks.

Another newspaper, the *Yomiuri Shimbun*, said police had found evidence that the sect was researching biological weapons.

Rebel massacre menaces Peru poll

FROM GABRIELLA GAMINI IN LIMA

THE massacre of 11 peasants in a remote Andean village has sparked fears that the Maoist Shining Path movement is unleashing a campaign of terror days before Peru goes to the polls, despite government claims that it has wiped out the guerrillas.

It is believed that the Sendero Luminoso rebels have resumed their campaign of violence in an effort to disrupt the general elections on April 9. "We all thought this terrorist violence was over, when suddenly it shows new vigour," said Roberto Toledo, an economist who is one of President Fujimori's main rivals.

On Saturday night, about 50 hooded guerrillas attacked the village of Calamar in the northern province of Bolivar, leaving the bullet-riddled and decapitated bodies of their 11



Guzman: called for peace after capture

victims strewn across the village square. "They just raided the place, raising their hammer and sickle flags, their machineguns and pulled people out of their homes to murder them," a survivor

said. Many of the bodies bore signs saying: "We will kill those who vote. Traitors to our cause will die."

Simultaneously, other rebels attacked an army camp in the northern jungle town of Julcan, killing four soldiers and injuring at least ten. Yesterday, there were reports of a grenade and bomb attack on government buildings in the nearby town of Chiclayo. All the attacks were in the area at the centre of Peru's cocaine production.

"These actions, just days before the polls, are to show that Sendero still has the firing power to cause havoc," said Carlos Tapia, an expert on the movement. "It makes a joke of the Government's claim to have rid the country of this problem."

A rise in violence could be a setback for Señor Fujimori,

who is ahead in the opinion polls largely because of his Government's success in capturing key leaders of the Shining Path and curbing violence which has claimed 27,000 lives in ten years.

Abimael Guzman, the Shining Path founder, was captured in September 1992, and has since called for a peace accord. Last week anti-terrorist police paraded 16 captured leaders, including the movement's deputy leader, Margie Evelyn Peraita or "Comrade Nancy", on television. Thousands of rebels have given up their arms.

[Bogota: Attackers on bicycles shot and killed five people aged between 15 and 17 and seriously injured another in a park in Medellin, Colombia, before escaping at the weekend. There was no obvious motive for the attack. (AP)]

Bomb-makers die in explosion at Hamas 'factory'

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

AT LEAST eight Palestinians, including children, were killed and 30 injured yesterday when a "bomb factory" run by Islamic terrorists in a residential building in Gaza City blew up, causing some of the worst carnage seen in the area since self-rule was granted last May.

Witnesses said limbs and decapitated bodies were scattered around the ruins of the three-storey block of flats where the explosion took



place. The Palestinian police said that the explosion was caused by two members of Hamas, the Islamic Resistance Movement, who were apparently making bombs to be used against Israeli targets.

The police said that one of those killed was Kamal Khelil, a member of the military wing of Hamas. Israel Radio later claimed that he was top of the country's list of wanted men in the Gaza Strip. The blast, which may reduce public sup-

port among ordinary Gazans for Hamas and increase the chances of the Palestine Liberation Organisation cracking down on terrorist cells, occurred in the middle of the afternoon when many families were at home. Police also discovered an arsenal of guns, grenades and bombs in the ruins.

The explosion provided a severe test for the Palestinian emergency services in Gaza, which are both under-funded and under-equipped. After the explosion, a police officer brought out four bombs and defused one in front of onlookers.

The scale of the bomb factory confirmed Israeli suspicions that Islamic terrorists are now using Gaza as a haven from which to plan and prepare attacks against Jews both within the area and inside Israel proper.

Before the explosion, the PLO announced that it would soon try three members of the Palestinian secret police who are suspected of involvement in the murder of a Palestinian prisoner during the weekend.

[Syrian pledge: The Syrian Government has agreed to restrain Hezbollah guerrillas in Lebanon who fired rockets at Israel on Friday, killing a boy, a spokesman for Yitzhak Rabin, the Israeli Prime Minister, said. The dead man was charged with collaborating with Israel in the murder of six PLO activists last year. (Reuters)]

Muslims fear mass arrests in Bombay

Bombay: Muslims fear mass arrests after Bombay's new political leaders ordered a round-up of "illegal" immigrants in the most blatant religious persecution since independence in 1947. (Christopher Thomas writes).

The Government in Delhi has attacked the action of the state government of Maharashtra, of which Bombay is the capital, but the harassment continued yesterday.

Militants held

Manila: Police seized six Islamic extremists believed to be linked to Sheikh Omar Abdel-Rahman, the Muslim cleric on trial in New York for the 1993 bombing of the World Trade Centre. Several weapons were also seized. (Reuters)

Net widens

Sarsang: Turkish forces hunting rebel Kurds in Iraq have widened the Qara mountains, 21 miles south of the border, firing artillery from Sarsang palace. President Saddam Hussein's former summer retreat. (Reuters)

Crisis deepens

London: The security crisis in Bahrain grew worse when the Islamic Front for the Liberation of Bahrain, the main exiled opposition group, urged citizens to launch a campaign of civil disobedience to press for democratic reforms.

Homes raided

Los Angeles: Heavily armed police swarmed into south central Los Angeles in a dawn raid on the homes of scores of suspected gang members in a big crackdown on violent crime in one of America's toughest neighbourhoods.

Engines found

Bucharest: The engines of the Romanian Airlines Airbus that crashed, killing 60 people, have been found. One engine is damaged, but a spokesman would not say whether the damage suggested a cause for the accident. (Reuters)

Hospital pays

Fort Worth: The family of Benjamin Jones, who died of cancer after a surgeon at the Osteopathic Medical Centre of Texas removed the wrong lung, has settled a lawsuit against the hospital for \$5 million (£3 million). (AP)

Execution order

Stavropol: Three former convicts were sentenced to death in this southern Russian town for murdering, by stabbing or strangulation, five motorists who gave them lifts on local roads while they pretended to be hitchhikers. (AP)

Pyramid bypass

Cairo: A United Nations delegation has started investigating options to reroute an almost completed road away from the three Giza pyramids and the Sphinx, which are already damaged by pollution and erosion. (AP)

Cold snap

Peking: Chinese experts said they have made what could be the first recovery of meteoric ice. The suspected sample plummeted to earth in Zhejiang province on March 23, the official Xinhua news agency reported. (Reuters)

Black marks

Dallas: The principal and another staff member at Sunset High School have been suspended for giving hundreds of pupils top marks for Peer Assistance and Leadership, a subject with no work used to fill the timetables. (AP)

Chirac lea
under on
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Bath of Irma
victims left to

Battles intensify

Hope for peace

Chirac lead slips under onslaught from opponents

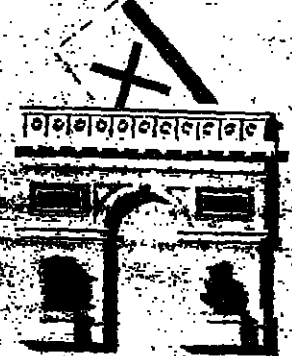
FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN PARIS

THREE weeks before France starts voting for a new President, Jacques Chirac, the Gaullist favourite, has lost his triumphal aura as his opponents from Left and Right have focused their fire on the more glaring contradictions in his agenda for a renaissance of France.

Lionel Jospin, the Socialist candidate, and Edouard Balladur, the Prime Minister and M. Chirac's Gaullist rival, spent the weekend accusing the front-runner of deceiving France with promises he could never fulfil.

New polls indicated his lead slipping back to a handful of points in the allcomers' first round contest, although he still holds a strong margin in projections for the two-man run-off, due on May 7.

Campaigning for his political life, the once-eminent M. Balladur tore into his old colleague, calling him an "irresponsible demagogue" whose promises to cure France's ills were mere hot air. Striking a new theme, he also attacked M. Chirac, the boss of the powerful Gaullist machine, for trying to bully the conservative political world into supporting him, in a taste of the rhetoric to be expected if the run-off turns into a Gaullist duel, M. Balladur said he was shocked to hear the



FRENCH ELECTIONS

Chirac's: touting lists of future ministers and promising "purgatory" for his own backers.

M. Jospin, who is struggling to ensure a left-wing presence in the run-off, warned the Socialist "traditional" public not to be duped by M. Chirac's new guise as a man with a social conscience. "The men and women of the Left must not mistake their candidate," he said yesterday. "Once M. Chirac is elected, he will either have to abandon his programme or lead the country into painful confrontations."

The target of his rivals' exasperation is M. Chirac's astute depiction of himself as a

muscular visionary who will heal France's social and economic ills through bold, but vaguely defined, measures. Bathed in a rosy rhetoric with echoes of Ronald Reagan, his promises include the feat of cutting taxes while at the same time curbing deficits and raising spending. Proof of M. Chirac's success are polls indicating that he is the strong favourite of voters aged under 25. They traditionally sympathise with the Left but were children when M. Chirac last held national office as a Thatcher-style conservative Prime Minister in the mid-1980s.

The latest polls indicate that the rivals' offensive is paying off. M. Chirac's lead has sagged over the past week after a month in which he appeared to be cruising to certain victory. An Ifop survey yesterday indicated that he had fallen back to 24.5 per cent in the allcomers' first round from 28 per cent three weeks ago. M. Jospin remained steady at 22 per cent and M. Balladur had risen to 20.5 from 19 per cent. While all polls still show M. Chirac winning against either rival in the two-man second round, his margin is waning.

M. Chirac's challenge is to keep up the momentum of the inspired campaign that took him, in two months from distant underdog to darling of the Right as well as of the centre and Left. Reinforcing his image as champion of the people, M. Chirac spent the weekend railing against the "monarchical drift" which, he says, has weakened the French system over the past two decades. His target is mainly President Mitterrand, the Socialist whose rule has been more regal than any predecessor's and whose court was tainted by corruption.

The Mitterrand legacy is the main handicap for M. Jospin as he fights to light the ideological fires that used to define the French political landscape. A colourless campaigner, M. Jospin, 59, is running as the candidate for M. Mitterrand's party while trying to distance himself from its unpopular record.



Princess Caroline and Prince Albert, her brother, opening Monaco's Bal des Roses

Princess finds a new role

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN PARIS

PRINCESS CAROLINE of Monaco, who is to visit London next month, was the hostess at the Bal des Roses at the weekend. The spring gala is one of the two great events of the principality's social calendar, consolidating the princess's increasing role as the First Lady, with Prince Rainier growing anxious over the failure of her brother, Prince Albert, 36, to find a bride.

The princess, 38, is going to London to present a season by the Monte Carlo Ballet Com-

pany, which she heads. Since the death of Stefano Casiraghi, her second husband, in a boating accident in 1990, the former darling of the gossip pages has led a discreet private life, mainly in Paris and at her farm near Saint Rémy de Provence. According to some sources, her long relationship with Vincent Lindon, the French film star, is on the wane.

Prince Rainier, who is 71 and in ill-health, has dismissed reports that he is about to abdicate in favour of

Prince Albert. In a rare interview last month he said his son, who has been trying to shed his playboy image, still had more to learn about his future job. "No date has been fixed. The transition must be progressive," he said.

For now Prince Rainier is said to be drawing solace from the knowledge that, if Albert produces no male heir, he has a successor in Andrea, the 11-year-old son of Caroline and Casiraghi. Without a Grimaldi heir, sovereignty over Monaco passes to France.

US keeps up aid to Russia despite war in Chechnya

FROM ANATOL LIEVEN IN MOSCOW

THE Clinton Administration will not allow American aid to Russia to be derailed either by sales of nuclear reactors to Iran nor the war in Chechnya, William Perry, the Defence Secretary, said here yesterday.

Mr Perry arrived in Russia for a three-day visit after he inspected the destruction of Ukrainian nuclear missiles and praised Ukraine's "remarkable" progress on nuclear disarmament. After an agreement last year on American financing of the process, Ukraine has decommissioned all its 42 SS-24 missiles, and about half of its 130 SS-19s. Part of the reward for this has been joint American-Ukrainian peacekeeping exercises next month.

The planned joint exercises in western Ukraine have caused considerable suspicion among Russian nationalists,

ingly for Mr Kuchma last year because they thought that his moderate and "pro-Russian" profile would lead him to guarantee their autonomy.

Speaking before his departure from Kiev, Mr Perry said that he had urged the Ukrainian Government to settle its differences with Moscow over the Crimea and the disputed Black Sea Fleet quickly and peacefully, and that he would say the same to the Russian Government. "So far, the most encouraging thing is that in spite of the depth of disagreement, there have been no military threats back and forth," Mr Perry said.

Crimean leaders yesterday reacted by calling on Moscow for help and threatened to hold the referendum on Crimea's future. Sergei Tskov, the Crimean parliamentary chairman, said yesterday: "We cannot continue to act calmly over a decree lowering Crimea to the status of an economy... we want Russia to move from talk to real help for Crimea."

Crimean resistance to the latest Ukrainian moves is not being led by President Meshkov because last autumn, a few months after being elected on a platform of reunification with Russia, he became involved in a bitter dispute with the Crimean parliament which stripped him of most of his powers. The struggle effectively crippled the Russian nationalist movement in Crimea, and encouraged Kiev's campaign.

The other reason that the Ukrainian Government has launched its campaign now is Russia's involvement in the crushing of the separatist movement in Chechnya. Vladimir Lukin, the head of the Russian parliament's foreign relations committee, said: "The Chechen fiasco leaves us neither political nor moral grounds to stand on when it comes to Crimea". The Russian Government has therefore taken a remarkably mild line in response to the Ukrainian campaign. However, increasing pressure from nationalists in parliament, and lack of agreement with Kiev over the division of the Black Sea Fleet, may soon push it into an open confrontation.

who greatly fear the expansion of American influence into the countries of the former Soviet Union. Relations between Russia and Ukraine have begun to deteriorate after an improvement with the election of President Kuchma last year. The chief reason for this is Ukrainian pressure on the Ukrainian autonomous republic of Crimea, which has a Russian majority population and until 1954 was part of Russia. After a series of moves to reduce Crimean autonomy, Mr Kuchma issued a decree at the weekend giving him direct control over the Crimean administration. He also ordered the restoration of Anatoli Franchuk, the Crimean Prime Minister, who was dismissed last week by parliament for being too pro-Ukrainian. Mr Franchuk's son is married to Mr Kuchma's daughter. Crimeans voted overwhelm-

Death of Irma stirs up memories of victims left to suffer in Sarajevo

BY JOEL BRAND IN SARAJEVO AND EVE-ANN PRENTICE

THE father of Irma Hadzimiracovic, the wounded Bosnian child who died in her sleep in London at the weekend, was trying yesterday to decide whether to bury his daughter in Britain or lay her to rest beside her mother in Sarajevo.

The mortar explosion that shattered Irma's lower spine and bowel in 1993 also killed her mother, Elvira. The seven-year-old's anguished father, Ramiz Hadzimiracovic, 37, was last night grieving with his younger daughter, Medina, four, and had not decided where the funeral would be held, a spokesman for Great Ormond Street Hospital for Sick Children said.

The death of one of Sarajevo's most internationally famous residents, a few days before the third anniversary of the outbreak of war in Bosnia-

Herzegovina, was not marked in the Bosnian capital, except by a few relatives and friends. Sarajevo's daily, *Oslobodjenje*, reported the child's death with a few lines on page seven.

Irma had been paralysed from the neck down since the explosion and had remained on a ventilator. Recently she suffered further complications, caused by the growth of massive scar tissue after surgery, and this prevented her from eating. She was fed intravenously, but developed a blood infection that killed her.

Dr Quen Mok, the paediatrician in charge of her care in London, said: "Irma was a warm and affectionate child who won the hearts of everyone. Her courage in dealing with her injuries was an inspiration to us all." Before Irma was wounded, nearly

10,000 other residents had been buried and more than 50,000 admitted to hospital - nearly a quarter of them children. "She's just one among 200,000 people who have died here in Bosnia,"



Irma under treatment: "inspiration to all"

said one Sarajevoan, unaware that the young girl's life had ended the day before. "I'm sorry for her, but all that made her different was that she was the one picked from the masses to become a television star."

A flood of evacuations for other wounded residents sparked by Irma's case has tapered off during the past year with the eventual lessening of attacks against civilians in Sarajevo and the restoration of water and electricity to the city's shell-battered hospitals. Last February's Nato ultimatum brought the Serbs' brutal two-year bombardment of the city to an end.

Despite the wider benefit of Irma's case, some correspondents who brought the damaged girl's plight to international attention, remain bitter about the episode. Irma was saved from death, but six days of needless delays caused by the United Nations and Western governments, held back her recovery. When John Major decided that she should be brought to London, it was probably already too late.

Irma's doctor in Sarajevo, Edo Jaganjac, wept over the delay. He had worked for 18 months in a Sarajevo trauma ward. Shortly after Irma's evacuation, he left to visit his family in Prague. His brother said that Dr Jaganjac had an emotional collapse in the Czech Republic. He never returned.

Battles intensify in Bosnia

FIGHTING intensified in Bosnia yesterday, with two battles reported in the Bihac pocket, vicious clashes between Serbs and Muslim-led government troops near Tuzla, and snipers firing on churchgoers in Sarajevo (Eve-Ann Prentice writes).

The heaviest fighting was reported by United Nations observers to be in mountains near Tuzla, where Serbs have been trying to hold back a

government advance. Bosnian government sources said that its troops had temporarily stopped their offensive because of heavy snow.

Fierce battles were also reported in the northwestern enclave of Bihac, where government forces have been under attack from rebel Muslim soldiers backed by Serbs from Bosnia and Croatia. The UN "safe area" of Bihac town was shelled for a second day

yesterday, and rebel Muslims and Serbs launched infantry attacks backed by tanks and artillery around Velika Kladusa, north of the Bihac area.

About 160,000 Muslims and Croats are surrounded by the rebel Muslim and Serb forces in the enclave. As a designated "safe area", Bihac town is eligible for protection by the UN and Nato warplanes, but Serbs have in the past prevented airstrikes.

Hope for peace after fish war talks

BY EVE-ANN PRENTICE

HOPES for an end to the acrimonious fish war between Canada and the European Union grew yesterday after talks between both sides in Brussels. "We're pleased with how this is going. The talks were constructive," said Jennifer Sloan, a spokeswoman for the Canadian delegation. Ms Sloan and Canadian Minister of Fisheries, Marc Zaccaro, an EU fisheries spokesman, said they hoped that a settlement could be found this week. Brian Tobin, the Canadian Fisheries Minister, also said a deal could be reached and that Canada would not jeopardise the talks.

at least for now, by taking immediate action against Spanish trawlers fishing off its Atlantic coast. "What is important is that the talks are continuing again today in Brussels. We are making very good progress and I can't say whether or not we will conclude these talks... but it is possible," Mr Tobin told the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation yesterday. A spokeswoman for the European Commission was more cautious, saying: "We can see the light at the end of the tunnel, but we are still not there." Optimism was also tempered by Spanish officials, who said Canada had made a solution more difficult by submitting extra

demands last week. Ottawa accuses Spanish fishermen of endangering stocks of Greenland halibut, the last significant commercial species in the region, and has imposed a unilateral moratorium in international waters off the Grand Banks, just outside Canada's jurisdiction of 200 nautical miles. Spanish fishermen say Canada's move to stop them fishing in international waters is illegal. Canadian Coast Guards have seized one Spanish trawler and cut the nets of another. The talks have to resolve several issues, including apportioning an internationally agreed total catch limit of 27,000 tonnes.

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BOOKS

We are defined by our countryside, says Simon Schama in his superb new study, *Landscape and Memory*

IN THE SHOPS: Now
REVIEW: Thursday



FILM

Beryl Bainbridge's *An Awfully Big Adventure* comes to the screen with Hugh Grant and Georgina Cates

OPENS: Friday
REVIEW: Thursday



MUSIC

Maximum exposure for maestro of minimalism: the South Bank presents three weeks of Michael Nyman

OPENS: Friday
REVIEW: Monday



OPERA

Fifty years after its premiere, Benjamin Britten's *Peter Grimes* returns to the London stage at Covent Garden

OPENS: Saturday
REVIEW: Monday

ARTS
TUESDAY TO
FRIDAY
IN SECTION 2

Too many misses, not enough hits

OPERA: Rodney Milnes dissects an ENO premiere gone horribly wrong; and (below) decries shabby treatment for Tchaikovsky

THE British premiere of Schnittke's fine, disturbing and important opera on Saturday could not be described as the happiest of occasions. It was not until twenty minutes after the curtain should have risen that anyone from management came out to explain why it hadn't, and the reason given — "a technical rehearsal" — did not exactly inspire confidence. A case, surely, for a white lie.

The single interval was almost as long as the act that preceded it, and the show over-ran by nearly half an hour: since the running time is only

two hours anyway, that is quite some over-run, and the deadening effect on so tightly constructed and swift-moving a piece was disastrous. There were moments of tangible confusion in the second act, with frantic shouts from — and indeed sightings of — stage staff, and strange lacunae when it looked as though something should have been happening and wasn't. The air of blind panic was palpable.

Jonathan Moore's production is needlessly over-elaborate, and near-fatal obscures the work's dark content. That content was outlined on this page last week by Victor Erofeev, author of the story on which the opera is based and indeed its librettist. The "I"-narrator, an academic, and his wife invite the eponymous halfwit to live with them out of unstated but guilt-ridden motives. The idiot deceives the wife and rapes "I", reducing him to a similar state of idioty. The idiot is Lenin, while "I" and the co-narrating chorus are the intelligentsia, but Erofeev has stated that this is not just a comfortable (for Western audiences) anti-Soviet satire. Vova, he said, is "an international idiot", and to blame for his excesses are the people who took him in.

So it seemed a pity that Moore and his designer David Blight should

have restricted themselves to Soviet visual references and initially presented a proletarian rather than an "intellectual" chorus. I am not saying that we should have had the Webbs on stage or that instead of being made-up as Lenin, Vova could have sported bouffant hair, a blue two-piece suit and wielded a handbag, but something to bring the action closer to home and prevent the audience from reacting so smugly would have been nice.

Even nicer would have been a *mise-en-scène* rather more concen-

trated: unceremoniously some whizz or rather creek around, the chorus block-

ing is clumsy and there is a general air of scatter-shot overkill. If you find enough ideas at a work, some of them may prove relevant. The general air of larkiness was singularly inappropriate. If an act of violent copulation draws merry laughter and a round of applause, then something has gone very wrong indeed. *Idiot* is an ink-black, deeply serious work, and Moore seems to have approached it at the level of mere sit-com.

Matters are far happier musically. Richard Armstrong, the hero of the evening, inspires a clear, disciplined account of the score from the orchestra, and there can be nothing but praise for the ENO Chorus, who deliver their complex lines apparently untroubled by countless uncalculated changes of costume and needless hyperactivity. And a riveting score it is too, multi-referential — everything from Mussorgsky to Shostakovich via folk-song and less familiar Soviet music — yet preserving a strong personal stamp. It would be rewarding to hear it unencumbered by so much visual clutter.

Although somewhat anonymous dramatically — and I don't blame him for that, since the director concentrates on externals rather than



Doing their best: David Barrell (left) as the husband and Alasdair Elliott as the Idiot in the bath scene of Schnittke's *Life with an Idiot*, which received its British premiere at the Coliseum on Saturday

essentials — David Barrell sings quite brilliantly as "I" and gets virtually all his words across, which is of course vital. Louisa Kennedy-Richardson, similarly tested at the Wife's extremes of vocal register, is

less successful in this respect, but has a good go (her feather duster should be banned forthwith); Alasdair Elliott (Vova) has only one word ("Ekki") and repeats it tellingly, but he should be ten times more frighten-

ing. Alone of the cast, Quentin Hayes gets somewhere near the quirky surrealist humour needed in the tiny role of Proust.

A depressing evening: an important work heedlessly traduced.

Only too pathetic

Shameful Vice
Blackheath
Concert Halls

IT IS hard to know what to say about Michael Finnissy's new music theatre piece, *Shameful Vice: The Last Days of Tchaikovsky*, save that after the experience of both this and Peter Schär's interminable *Symposium* (just wish the poor composer could be left to rest in peace).

What makes it especially hard is that the combination of the Blackheath Concert Halls' resonant acoustics and totally unnecessary amplification meant that precious little of this performance by Vocem and the Endymion Ensemble came across. About one in ten words were audible (and those not necessarily consecutive) and it was not easy to guess whether the apparently random mixing represented the composer's wishes or not. Some of the music is pretty, but what is it for?

The narrative seemed to follow the highly dubious "court of honour" theory, though I should hate to have to say what the 30-minute piece is about, save for yucky gay paranoia, or why Finnissy wrote it. Perhaps the mildly blasphemous notion of presenting the moment-of-death flashback in Passion form was thought to be enough: the 14 scenes have titles like "He stands accused by the crowd", and "He is reviled", and the piece ends with Tchaikovsky cradled in Pietà pose by his mother. Yawnerama, sweetheart. The staging, including a pas de deux for Tchaikovsky and Saint-Saëns, was pure Theatre of Embarrassment.

Shameful Vice was followed by Vocem's staging of *Scipio's Dream*, Judith Weir's dryly witty adaptation of Mozart's juvenile cantata. This too was 30 minutes of pure torment, unless you happen to find bad singing per se hilariously funny. It was sad to see a band of the Endymion's distinction associated with this sort of shambling amateurishness.

CONCERTS: Viennese visitors at the Barbican; baroque gems in the perfect London setting

A promise only partially delivered

Vienna SO/
Harnoncourt
Barbican

The Adagio introduction to Haydn's Symphony No 104 in D major (the "London") was given with a spinning sense of mystery, the suspense enhanced by the pregnant pause that followed it. That mood was continued in the Allegro, which was palpably less serene than usual. Harnoncourt's hallmark accents were frequently in evidence, not least in the Menuet, with its prominent brass synopses. A fiery, virile finale brought an unconventional

highlighted in that reading, one might have expected rather more fireworks in what is generally regarded as one of Mozart's most proto-Romantic works: the "daemonic" Piano Concerto K466 in D minor. In fact, in Rudolf Buchbinder's hands it was a rather uneventful reading, smoothly executed and reluctant to draw attention to

itself. For the most part, Harnoncourt seemed inhibited in his contribution. The orchestra played beautifully throughout the concert: woodwind blends were particularly impressive and there were some excellent solos from that department too. The first two movements of Beethoven's *Pastoral* Symphony amply demonstrated those virtues in readings that were fresh and vibrantly coloured.

The falling of the first drops of rain was painted vividly, and the storm, when it finally came, was fearsome. After this, the shepherd's hymn of thanksgiving in the finale was all the more ingraining. Not that there was anything bland about it: indeed, a blaze of trumpets irradiated the climax, providing at once an unfamiliar perspective and a stirring peroration.

BARRY MILLINGTON

At home with past masters

Taverner Consort
Stationers' Hall

works in a vacuum. John Blow, Purcell's teacher and his predecessor and successor as organist at Westminster Abbey, was a gifted inventor in his own right, as the large-scale "symphony anthem" — an apt name for its genre if ever there was — *O sing unto the Lord* amply showed here.

Blow had vivid, strong ideas, and if in the last analysis one misses Purcell's sheer force of personality and teasing humour, his variegated writing for different solo voices (Jonathan Peter Kenny, Simon Berridge, Rodrigo del Pozo, Angus Smith and

Jeremy White); mellifluous use of a pair of violins and sheer inventive facility make for a powerful and impressively scaled piece. Incidentally, this work was also first heard in this hall, early in 1702. It has only recently become performable again, thanks to Bruce Wood's editorial acumen on behalf of the Musica Britannica series, which this concert also celebrated.

After the filler of William

Bye's *Overture to the Ode for New Year's Day, 1758* — more commonly known as his First Symphony — given with spruce and vigorous reading with trumpets, drums and bassoons resounding sonorously, came another surprise. Maurice Greene's *Ode on St Cecilia's Day*, written to Alexander Pope's text and first performed at the opening of the Cambridge University Senate House in 1730, is a fine match for Handel, reminiscent of the facility of that composer's early, verdant Italian style.

The countertenor and tenor

duct *By the streams that ever flow*, complete with two winnowing flutes, is by any standards a gem. But what is also remarkable is the expressive shaping of the whole work, with different harmonic centres, for instance, used for specific expressive purposes and with a careful balance of light and shade. There is nothing workaday or second rate about it.

The same soloists, with the addition of the bass David Thomas and one or two from the sturdy, clear chorus, and another typically purposeful, clear orchestral performance, put its case with maximum eloquence.

STEPHEN PETTITT

ROCK: A surf guitar maestro rules the waves

Fun, fun, fun or what?

Dick Dale
Garage, NI

hands, involves echoes, tremolos sounds, speeding arpeggios and a thundering rhythm, may be retrospective in its design, but it clearly reaches the parts, more modern approaches can only dream about.

Dale, bassist Ron Egli and drummer Bryan Lee Brown clearly relish their new international audience. A 90-minute set, taking in material from Dale's albums *Tribal Thunder* and

Unknown Territory, as well as the unreleased-as-yet *Calling Up Spirits*, followed by encores and an autograph session, combined value for money with an easy charm. Musicians half Dale's age would be hard-pressed to match his pace and stamina.

At times Dale seemed to be blown over by the sheer gusts of sounds generated by his guitar, a gold-sprayed Fender prototype. The frenetic accel-

eration of instrumentals like *Nitro*, *Esperanza* and Dale's first big hit, *Let's Go Trippin'*, had the function of a sonic wind machine. Dale's black locks, anchored only by a matching bandana, flew backwards while his face — eyes closed, head up — had the expression of one who had achieved that special empathy with his instrument granted only to a few.

A handful of cover pieces — including *Fever*, *Ghosts in the Sky* and *Link Wray's Rumble* — acknowledged Dale's early peers, just as his new material shows him unwilling to vary a winning style. It just goes to prove the wisdom in the old saying "If it ain't broke, don't fix it".

LOUISE GRAY

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The symphony that seems to break the rules of physics □ How laser images can help to restore sight □ Can plants communicate?



ACCORDING to relativity, the speed of light is an absolute: going any faster — as in *Star Trek* — simply isn't possible. But now a number of physicists are claiming to have detected particles travelling considerably faster than light. One of them, Gunter Nimtz, of the University of Cologne, claims to have actually sent a signal faster than light by modulating a microwave beam. The signal could have been anything, but was Mozart's 40th Symphony.

The experiments involve passing microwaves down square metal tubes which are too small to accommodate them. A simple example of the same phenomenon is to drive a car into a tunnel with the radio on. If the tunnel is too narrow, the radio signal dies. In the case of the microwaves, if the cross-section of the tube is less than a complete number of half wavelengths, the signal cannot pass through, but is reflected. Yet some microwaves do get through — a process known as tunnelling. This strange phenomenon

Going faster than light



SCIENCE BRIEFING

Nigel Hawkes

seems to defy normal rules. When particles such as, say, photons, the particles of light — are directed at impenetrable barriers, they ought to bounce back. But some don't. Quantum theory says that there is a small probability that a particle can tunnel its way through a barrier that ought to be impenetrable — and that is, indeed, observed.

Theory further suggests that particles tunnelling through barriers, or microwaves going down too-narrow waveguides, should do so without any appreciable delay. This has led to

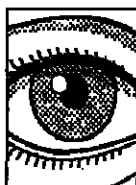
a series of experiments in which physicists have attempted to measure the speeds. The upshot of experiments at the University of California is that photons tunnelling through an "impenetrable" optical filter do arrive sooner than those travelling through air.

Dr Raymond Chiao, whose team was responsible, concluded that the photons had travelled at 1.7 times the speed of light. Now an even greater speed has been claimed by Dr Nimtz, for his microwaves tunnelling through the waveguide bearing the strains

of Mozart — 4.7 times the speed of light, reports *New Scientist*. The shocking thing about both these results is that the waves appear to have got there before they started, the equivalent of clocks running backwards. Quantum physicists are divided over whether this violates causality. Dr Chiao believes that his own results with photons can be understood if we think of them not as particles but as "wave packets", where the probability of finding a particle is represented by a curve which peaks at the most likely place.

In tunnelling, he argues, such a probability distribution is distorted so that its peak is closer to the front. This creates the illusion of faster-than-light travel but is meaningless in real terms because it works only for smoothly varying pulses — any attempt to impose a signal would prevent the experiment working. This would, in his view, prevent us sending a message faster than light.

Blind vision



A BLIND poet has been given back some sight by the ingenious use of a scanning laser ophthalmoscope, designed to enable doctors to study the retina by shining a beam of light on it.

Elizabeth Goldring, who is blind as the result of diabetes, was introduced to the idea by Lloyd Aiello, her ophthalmologist in Boston. He used the laser beam to project an image of a turtle onto one of her retinas, going past the damaged region at the front of her eyes that had caused the blindness. She "saw" the turtle image clearly.

Now Ms Goldring, who as well as writing poetry works at the Centre for Advanced Visual Studies at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology is using the device to project words directly into her eyes. It has enabled her to read simple text for two hours a day.

There are millions of people in the world with eye damage caused

by diabetes or macular degeneration who might benefit from such a device. The problem is bulk and expense. The machine costs \$100,000 (£62,500) and Robert Webb, its inventor, is doubtful that they will ever make effective reading machines. "The economics are not very encouraging," he admits.

Green gossip



PLENTY of gardeners talk to their plants, but do the plants also gossip among themselves? Last week's meeting of the Institute of Physics at Telford heard the suggestion that plants can exchange information by releasing tiny amounts of gases or vapours, maybe no more than a few molecules.

Dr Michael Jackson of the Department of Agricultural Sciences at the University of Bristol is interested in the idea, pointing out that when one plant in a group is damaged in some way, others appear to respond in sympathy.

One candidate for the chemical messenger is a volatile material called methyl jasmonate.

It occurs in many plants, where it seems to function as a growth regulator, or plant hormone. "Because it is volatile, people have wondered if plants might communicate by it," Dr Jackson says. "Similar suggestions have been made about ethylene."

To find out, very sensitive diagnostic methods are needed. At Keele University, Professor Derek Laine and Dr Mohammed Al-Jourani believe the answer may lie in the laser photoacoustic effect. When a gas is exposed to laser light in the right way, it may emit a pressure wave — effectively sound — which can be picked up by a microphone.

The effect can measure the amounts of methyl jasmonate down to levels of ten parts per billion, but Dr Jackson says that further improvements are still needed if it is to prove the case one way or the other.

"With ethylene we have got to levels of parts per trillion. The dilution of anything emitted by plants is so enormous that you need to detect the faintest traces."

Should we fear to eat meat?

Adam Zeman reports on the mystery of a rare brain disease

Prions, "small proteinaceous infectious particles", are a novel infectious agent, neither bacteria nor virus, which appear to flout a fundamental principle of modern biology.

Although their existence was debated for a decade after the term was coined in 1982 by Stanley Prusiner, an American neurologist and biochemist, many scientists now believe that they are the cause of a group of neurological disorders — the spongiform encephalopathies, which can affect both animals and man.

The story of their discovery is as remarkable as its biological implications. It begins with

scrapie, a brain disease of sheep, which was first described in the 18th century. Experiments in the 1930s suggested that it was infectious, although there has never been any evidence of transmission to man. There also appeared to be a strong inherited predisposition to develop the disease. It causes a loss of nerve cells, scarring and "spongiosis", a proliferation of cavities which gives the brain the appearance of a sponge under the microscope.

Twenty years later, an epidemic among the Fore speakers of Papua New Guinea attracted Western medical attention. Numerous members



A cow with symptoms of BSE or "mad cow disease". (right) brown clumps of prion protein in the brain of a human patient with a related illness

of the tribes, which happened to engage in the ritualistic cannibalism of dead relations, were succumbing to a dreadful illness. Beginning with unsteadiness and tremor, it progressed over a year or so to intellectual decline and physical helplessness. The brains of the victims of kuru showed strikingly similar changes to those seen in scrapie-infected sheep.

This prompted attempts to transmit kuru to experimental

animals by injection. Rarely, the material was also infectious in monkeys when eaten. No one born since cannibalism was abandoned in New Guinea has developed kuru. The interlinked stories of scrapie and kuru might well have dwindled into a medical footnote, had it not been for a change in techniques for processing sheep offal and for a number of other rare neurological diseases.

Sheep offal has been an

surprising ingredient in the otherwise vegetarian diet of British cattle for many years. The epidemic of "mad cow disease" or BSE (bovine spongiform encephalitis) among British cattle in the 1980s was probably the result of a change in production methods which allowed material from sheep with scrapie to infect cattle.

The human disorders which have kept neurologists' interest in this area alive are rare. Even the most common, Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease (CJD), occurs in only about one individual per million per year worldwide. Its symptoms somewhat resemble kuru, with earlier intellectual decline. Similar changes to kuru and scrapie occur in the brain. Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease can be transmitted to apes and — rarely — conveyed between humans. A tragic outbreak resulted from the use of growth hormones from the pituitary glands of cadavers to treat short stature.

There is no evidence, however, that most sufferers from CJD catch the disease from other sufferers, and in a few cases we can be confident that the disease is not caught at all: it is inherited. To complicate matters, material from the brains of patients with inherited disease sometimes transmits the disorder to monkeys in the laboratory. This flies in the face of the usual expectation that diseases are either inherited or acquired.

What kind of agent could possibly give rise to this bizarre spectrum of human and animal disease, sometimes infectious, sometimes inherited, but invariably laying waste to the brain?

The bugs causing human disease are many and various — bacteria, viruses, fungi and protozoa — but they have one fundamental property in common with one another and with us: the composition of the proteins on which their lives depend is determined by their genes. These are embodied in nucleic acids, the key to life on Earth. Genes specify proteins, and proteins both comprise much of the substance of the body and govern its chemical

reactions. It looked likely that whatever caused the spongiform encephalopathies would contain a core of nucleic acid. Attempts to filter out the infectious agent from infected brains suggested that the culprit must be extremely small, perhaps a virus. But procedures which reliably inactivate viral nucleic acids made no impact on it. By contrast, chemical manoeuvres which disrupt proteins clearly reduced its infective powers.

Subsequent purification revealed nothing but protein in infectious material, so the concept of prions, or infectious proteins, was born. The idea was a radical one: proteins — unlike nucleic acids — were not thought to be capable of replicating themselves, yet in scrapie, BSE, kuru and CJD prions accumulate massively in the course of infection.

The explanation is thought to run something like this. Prion protein, in minute amounts, is a normal resident in the fatty membranes that enclose the cells of the brain. Its function is unknown. Like every other protein in the body its manufacture is controlled by a gene, in this case the prion protein gene. Like all proteins it is removed and replaced as it ages.

Those of us at risk of developing an inherited prion disease produce a slightly abnormal prion protein. This is unusually liable to undergo some kind of change, perhaps a change of shape, which renders it indigestible by the cell. Indigestible protein then interacts with the digestible variety, converting it to the indigestible form. Prion protein accumulates, wreaking havoc in the brain.

The capacity of the rogue protein to convert its healthy relations into the indigestible state explains the puzzling fact that the prion diseases can be either inherited or acquired through infection. The explanation for most human cases — which do not appear to be either inherited or straightforwardly acquired — remains a matter for debate. Professor John Collinge, a neurologist at

St Mary's Hospital, Paddington, has suggested that in these cases, too, inherited predisposition plays a role.

Our growing understanding of the biology of prions has shed some light on the risk of BSE to man. Although most mammalian proteins are shared, they differ in their detailed composition from one species to another. The less closely related two species are, the less similar their proteins. Prion protein is no exception, and the risk of developing disease after exposure to rogue protein falls off sharply if it derives from a species remote from one's own. Experiments have shown that mice are normally susceptible to inoculation with prions from mice, but resistant to those from hamsters. If the hamster prion protein gene is instilled into the hapless mouse, the resulting transgenic animal produces the hamster prion protein as well as its own. It then becomes a potential vic-

tim of the hamster disease. The existence of such a species barrier, albeit incomplete, suggests that the risk to man from the cattle prion is very remote. Anatomical barriers reduce the risk, still further. Prions are much less likely to cause trouble if eaten than if injected, and much more abundant in the nervous system than elsewhere. Experiments demonstrating transmission have usually taken the extreme measure of direct injection of nervous tissue into the brain.

Dr Bob Will, a consultant neurologist in Edinburgh, leads a research team conducting continuous surveillance of the incidence of CJD in the United Kingdom. Beef farmers are not alone in hoping that the team will make a reassuring contribution to the extraordinary science of prions.

Dr Zeman is a neurologist at Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge.

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Matthew Parris



■ MPs are not noted for their sporting prowess, otherwise an athletic record could be under threat

Happiness, for those of us whose ambitions exceed our talent, is finding a pond small enough to be a big fish in. I always wanted to be a champion marathon runner. In my mind I was a champion marathon runner. But reality never matched. As Grandad once confided to me while we watched Nana scurrying towards the sea with her familiar shout of "Hooray! What fun!" it always preceded her turning back as the waves lapped her ankles: "Mentally, Alice is a swimmer; physically she has never quite made it."

I was luckier than Nana. I found a pond small enough to be a champion in. It was called the House of Commons. Frankly, as sporting categories go, the Commons is not a competitive field. By finishing the 1985 London marathon in 39th place, in a time of two hours, 32 minutes and 57 seconds, somewhat behind the leading women, but ahead of the gorillas and the waiter with the tray, I became, I think, the fastest marathon-running MP ever.

Before you are moved to spontaneous applause, ask yourself in what other categories most of us, if elected to Parliament, could establish ourselves as "best MP ever". Jam-making, hopscotch, cucumber-growing, fidelity and Scrabble spring to mind. There can hardly be a Times

By finishing in 39th place I became the fastest marathon-running MP ever

reader who could not construct a category in which he or she might finish a nose ahead of 650 distracted, stressed out, overweight, short-sighted beings of mixed intellectual calibre, mostly middle-aged men.

Still, it felt good, on Westminster Bridge on a Sunday in April 1985. And it felt good each subsequent April when my little claim to a sporting record has survived another year intact.

As this goes to print, I cannot be sure that no MP has finished faster this year, but I doubt it. Seb Coe could easily beat me if he tried: but 800 metres is a very different race. As the world record-holder in that event for 15 years (Coe will surely establish a new record: that of the record-holder who has held his record longest), he would still have to train properly and for months beforehand for the London marathon. My spits tell me this has not been the case and I do not believe he has even entered. Gary Walker (Keighley) must now hold the record for the sheer number of London marathons completed by an MP: he has been running them since they started: but, thankfully, not very fast.

Gary also holds the record for the amount of pain endured by an MP in the London marathon. As all his marathons take more

than four hours, he has endured (by my calculations) nearly 50 hours of sheer hell on London's roads since the event was conceived. Few realise that a four-and-a-half hour marathon is actually harder to run than a two-and-a-quarter hour marathon. The pain is just as great in either case, but for Gary it lasts twice as long.

There was one year when Colin Moynihan, then an MP, looked a real threat to my record. An ex-Olympic cox, he was certainly capable of it. He entered with a degree of fanfare and some ugly rumours about his punishing training schedule. Sadly, Colin, who had become a minister, left the race after 12 miles. His excuse was he had another engagement.

I think I am safe this year. Let nobody talk to you about the comradeship and sporting spirit of the long-distance runner. Every night, before a modest shrive of little voodoo dolls I have constructed, each representing one of the MPs likely to enter the marathon, I pray (as I place an extra skewer into every doll) that flu,

spontaneous applause, ask yourself in what other categories most of us, if elected to Parliament, could establish ourselves as "best MP ever". Jam-making, hopscotch, cucumber-growing, fidelity and Scrabble spring to mind. There can hardly be a Times

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Gary also holds the record for the amount of pain endured by an MP in the London marathon. As all his marathons take more

The strength of the German economy threatens the introduction of a single European currency

What do they know of Europe who only Brussels know? From the time of the Treaty of Maastricht, in 1991, a dangerous gap has opened between the Euro elite and public opinion in the European countries. Since then, I have been reporting on the Europe of the nations rather than the Europe of the Brussels institutions.

A number of conclusions are self-evident. The first is that Europe in the 1990s is still national rather than federal in its loyalties. In each country, people are far more concerned with their own governments and with their own national institutions than with Brussels. For the Italians, it is Rome which counts and the Italian elections which are most keenly contested. This national focus of loyalty may be somewhat less true in Belgium, which is deeply divided, or in Luxembourg, which is a Grand Duchy rather than a nation, but it is the general state of Europe. So long as the loyalty of the people is primarily devoted to their own countries, the nations, rather than Brussels, will retain the ultimate authority.

After Maastricht, the German Constitutional Court found that the democratic basis of the European Union remained in the individual national parliaments, and had not been taken over by the European Parliament. That is true in fact, as well as in German law.

There is not much evidence of any movement from this national loyalty to a broader European one. Indeed, the nations are more threatened by the re-emergence of the older and smaller nations which form part of them. Germans tend to believe that the system of the lander, the German type of federalism, will satisfy regional nationalists and will be accepted by the Catalans, the Scottish and the Basques. They are supposed to accept that smaller nations than themselves

Why the ecu is such a distant dream

can be full members of the European Union but they can only be members through some larger body. Certainly, Scottish Nationalists will have a battle to persuade the European Union to accept them as a separate member of the Community because of the danger that their example would spread to other nationalist claimants. The Germans do not want to encourage separatism in Germany or in any other European country.

How popular is the European idea inside the other European countries? In general, the idea, when broadly expressed, is still popular enough, but the bureaucracy is not. Except possibly in Britain where the disaster of the exchange-rate mechanism recession has eroded support for Europe. There is still a widespread belief in some sort of European ideal. In the nine national referendums held since Maastricht, the post-Maastricht system has been rejected three times and was accepted only narrowly by the French.

All the European nations seem to recognise that the size of Germany is a problem, even the Germans. Before reunification, the four leading European economies — Germany, France, Italy and Britain — were roughly level with each other, though Germany was already the largest and had the biggest exports. Now the German population has increased by a nearly third and Germany still has the highest GDP per head. As this is combined with the political strength

of the Franco-German alliance, Germany appears to the rest of Europe to be the controlling shareholder.

This is also a problem for the Germans themselves. As the controlling shareholder they are expected to find the funds. The experience of East Germany has shown them how expensive the development of backward European countries can be. It is one thing to subsidise the three small and poor countries of the European Union — Ireland, Portugal and Greece — and another to contemplate

want. Yet the real difficulty may lie in the German economy even more than in this lack of public support.

The Germans have every right to be proud of the post-war record of the mark, which follows two inflationary collapses of their currency in the first half of the century. A strong economy and a strong Central Bank have maintained one of the three strong currencies of the world. The question is whether the German economy is powerful enough to support an equally successful ecu.

It is clear to the Bundesbank that in every way in which the ecu is different from the mark, it is bound to be inferior to it. The European economy taken together is not as strong as the German; there would be less German control; and the debt situation would be worse. The Bundesbank is therefore reluctant to accept the single currency proposal. Chancellor Kohl is in favour of it for political reasons, because he sees it as part of the process of building a single European state.

In the Maastricht treaty, the first date for the single currency was 1997 and the second was 1999; most people agree that the first date cannot be met. However, the next German federal elections, in which Chancellor Kohl may still be a candidate, have to be held in 1998, before the final decision date. It seems likely that the survival of the mark will become a German election

William Rees-Mogg

development finance for the potential new members from Eastern Europe. The German economy is strong, but it is not unlimited: it is not competitive with the United States in new technology or with Japan in the ability to generate vast surpluses. German industry has high costs, exporting jobs, has a large welfare burden and an ageing population. The single currency itself has no real popular support in any European country of substance. It is a device of the technicians which was taken up by the politicians rather than something the people genuinely

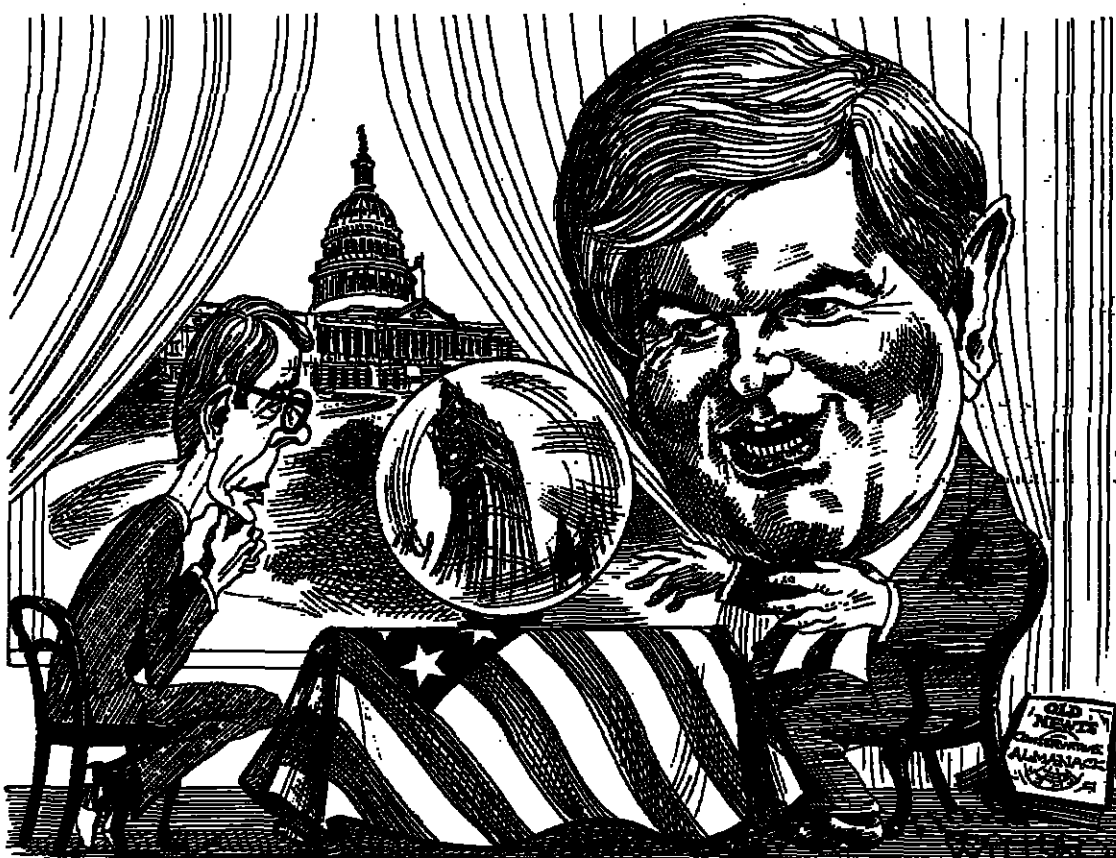
Bring on the British contract

John Major should heed the Republican lesson, says Peter Riddell

John Major has never met Newt Gingrich. They are very different types of politician: one, a conciliator and manager by temperament, the other, a visionary and crusader. What Mr Gingrich, the first Republican Speaker of the House for 40 years, has achieved in galvanising Washington, as well as the recent setbacks of his "Contract with America", offer revealing pointers as to what the Tories should do to save the next election.

The Prime Minister regards his talks tomorrow with Mr Gingrich as one of the highlights of his visit to America. Yet they are due to meet for only 45 minutes compared with nearly three hours which Mr Major will spend at the White House. Most British attention has focused on the latter, after Mr Major's differences a few weeks ago with Bill Clinton about Gerry Adams's visit to America. The White House has been overcompensating with gushing remarks about how close and cordial relations between the two countries and their leaders are.

The truth is more prosaic than either misleading guff about the special relationship or stories about snubs or splits. The British Government does not trust the Clinton White House after some bruising incidents over the past two years, but they have to work together and they agree on most matters: how to handle Boris Yeltsin, enlargement of Nato, sanctions against Iraq, and even Bosnia. The two leaders certainly have plenty to discuss, headed by the deteriorating situation in Bosnia. There is, in practice, little to talk about on Northern Ireland. This agenda is the stuff of meetings



between heads of government, undramatic but necessary.

No one should underestimate Mr Clinton, or his chances of re-election next year. Even now his approval ratings are twice those of Mr Major. But the Republicans' rout of the Democrats last November to capture Congress has altered the balance with the White House — especially since it came two years after the disarray of George Bush's failed re-election campaign. His defeat is a warning to Mr Major. As James Pinkerton, the frustrated policy planning adviser in the Bush White House, said recently, the Bush campaign failed because it had nothing to say. Plenty of reasons were offered about why things could not be done, and few about what could be done.

"Contract with America", the compelling programme of the House

Republicans' triumph was much more a vote against Mr Clinton and Congressional Democrats than an endorsement of the contract, of which only a minority had even heard. But there was a sense that the Republicans wanted to shake things up.

With only ten of the 100 days still to go, the record on implementation is mixed. Mr Clinton has already signed two items into law, applying national employment laws to Congress and limiting the imposition of new federal requirements on state and local governments unless federal funding is also provided. But the Senate failed to muster the two-thirds majority needed for a constitutional amendment to balance the federal budget. The same happened last Wednesday in the House for an amendment limiting the length of time people can serve in Congress.

The real lesson of the contract is that parties have to offer positive reasons for being in office. On Saturday, Mr Major said the Tories' 1979 programme had largely been achieved and it was time to move on. He outlined a wide array of further proposals on crime, housing, nursery schools and tax cuts, to show that the Government has not run out of steam. Yet paradoxically, his speech showed how difficult it is for long-serving incumbents to devise and present a fresh appeal. They are always constrained by their records. It is easier for Tony Blair to outline general themes, as Mr Clinton did in 1992. Yet what Mr Major still has, which Mr Bush did not have then, is a determination to stay in office. That, at least, Mr Major and Mr Gingrich have in common.

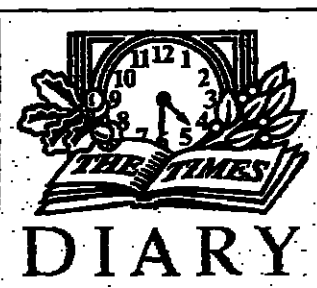
Off the Bill

WHEN will Tony Blair follow John Major in paying a visit to Bill Clinton? For his reluctance to meet his ideological soulmate is becoming daily more marked. Once Blair's "New Labour" Party flirted outrageously with Clinton's New Democrats, Clinton's aides, including his spin-doctor Mandy Grudenwald, even helped during his leadership campaign. Blair intended to go Stateside this month, it was rumoured last autumn. There followed the Democrats' drubbing in the mid-term elections and other unfortunate incidents.

"Not much more than two years ago, the fashion in the Labour Party was to talk about Clintonisation," huffs a Conservative Central Office spokesman. "They are no longer talking about doing that — it's another fashion that has failed."

Now the firm riposte from Tim Allan, Blair's press officer, on timing is: "No date has been set." One party source whispered that he did not expect his leader to go this year.

Nor, it is said, is Cherie Blair keen to stroll around the White



House lawn with fellow barrister, Hillary, while their husbands reminisce about their days at Oxford.

Instead, the Labour leader will embark on a series of foreign forays as part of his "education" to everywhere, it appears, except Washington. High on the list of leaders to be favoured by an early visit is, I hear, that other troubled president, Boris Yeltsin.

Tragic link

LORD Wakeham has decided on all but one of the new members for his revamped Press Complaints Commission including — it is

rumoured — Lady Browne-Wilkinson, wife of a law lord, and Sir Brian Cubbon, former Home Office permanent secretary. Others include Baroness Smith, widow of John, and Lib Dem peer, Lord Tordoff.

But, with Cubbon, Wakeham shares a tragic bond: both were victims of IRA terrorist attacks. Wakeham was badly injured in the Brighton bombing, which killed his wife, whereas Cubbon received serious wounds when an IRA land mine exploded in 1976, killing his secretary, Judith Cook, and Britain's ambassador to Eire, Christopher Ewart-Biggs.

Fit for a King

AFTER his jolly lunch with the Queen in Durban last month, the King of the Zulus, King Goodwill Zwelithini kaCyprian Bhhekuzulu, is brushing his leopard-skin head-dress and blue crane feathers in preparation for his reciprocal visit to Britain in May.

Highlight of the trip will be the official unveiling of his only authorised portrait at the Royal Geographical Society. At His Royal Highness's request the oil painting, by American artist Sheldon Goldstein, depicts him in traditional regal dress on the Zulu nation.

However Goldstein, delighted at such an honour, is prepared to greet him in whatever garb he chooses for the unveiling ceremony. "But wouldn't it be great if he arrived wearing his traditional costume?"

● Dame Lucie Rie, the great potter, who died aged 93 at the weekend, hit it off remarkably well with Sir David Attenborough. While filming a documentary on her life and work, he once had to grab her quickly by the ankles to prevent her toppling into a top-loading kiln.



King Goodwill on canvas

"You will have to cut out that undignified scene," Rie ordered the director, Cyril Frankel. Later, after seeing a private view of the film, she relented, and let it be shown in full.

Lost alumnus

WHEN OUR Defence Secretary, Malcolm Rifkind, trots off to Zimbabwe this week for a nine-day visit he will, in one sense, be returning to old haunts. His first job on leaving Edinburgh University was to teach black and white students in what was the University of Rhodesia in Salisbury.

When Rifkind made the first rung of the ministerial ladder as a junior Scottish Office minister, a former black student sent congratulations to him, saying he too had achieved political success — as the foreign minister under the new regime. "He lasted just six months," Rifkind tells me. "The last I heard, he was running a pub in Bulawayo."

● Department of Transport officials are feeling weighed down by the paperwork submitted with the four tenders for the Channel Tunnel rail link. End to end, the documents would cover a fair few miles of the track, for each bid measures



MP Diane Abbott takes to the hustings with her son, James

more than 30ft high and weighs in at 3.5 tonnes.

Soul mates

ONE of Westminster's most unlikely alliances must be that between the Chief Secretary to the Treasury, right-winger Jonathan Aitken, and Labour's unreconstructed left-wing MP, Diane Abbott. Hence Abbott, to date, has kept remarkably silent about the minister's current difficulties over arms contracts. They

go back a long way," confirms a Commons aide. In fact, to the troubled days of TV-am, on which Abbott worked as a journalist.

Since Abbott's entry into the Commons, the two MPs have co-operated in votes as "pairs" and invite each other to social events. In addition, they can both be seen on occasion cooing over James, Diane's feisty three-year-old offspring. Aitken is his godfather.

P.H.S



OBITUARIES

DAME LUCIE RIE

Dame Lucie Rie, DBE, potter, died on April 1 aged 93. She was born on March 16, 1902.

ALTHOUGH a student of the modern movement who wanted to make ceramics for everyday use, Lucie Rie was a potter whose bowls, vases and bottles were suffused with her individual, discriminating artistic sense. Over a period of more than 50 years she became one of the most admired modern potters and prices for her work soared. A Rie teapot sold at auction last December for £4,000 and a vase for £15,000.

Born Lucie Gomperitz, the daughter of a Viennese doctor, she studied ceramics at the Vienna Kunstgewerbeschule in the 1920s under Michael Powolny, one of the artists who had introduced a more decorative and abundant element into the earlier more disciplined style of Josef Hoffmann's Wiener Werkstätte. Although she benefited from his knowledge of ceramic chemistry, she had little in common with his whimsical style and from the start wanted to make the kind of pots that would belong in modern interiors. Indeed, she would have liked to have gone to the Bauhaus but, although she set up her own pottery in their house, her parents would not allow her to go alone to Germany.

She admired the spare, unadorned architecture of Adolf Loos and her own flat in Vienna was designed by her friend Ernst Pisside. Although tiny, the bare wood, built-in furniture and lack of patterning suited her temperament so well that she lived with it all her life, later rebuilding part of the interior above her studio in her new house near Hyde Park.

The tenacity of her own taste is evident in her work. During the 1930s she won medals at international exhibitions in Brussels, Milan and Paris, but in 1938 left Austria and settled in London, where she again established a workshop. The European idiom, free of historical association, sparsely if at all decorated and relying on the qualities of glaze and surface texture for effect, was little understood or admired here. She was eventually introduced by Muriel Rose, owner of the Little Gallery, at that time the most influential craft gallery in London, to Bernard Leach, who then dominated British studio ceramics.

Lucie Rie spent a week with Leach at Dartington, where she learnt a great deal about throwing and kneading clay, but also lost much of her confidence in her own work. Nevertheless, she never compromised with her own judgment, and her postwar pots later marked a



decisive break with the more rustic and oriental-inspired Leach tradition.

During the war Lucie Rie worked in a factory, adjusting optical instruments and afterwards made buttons, necklaces and ornaments for Fritz Lampl, also from Vienna. To her delight, these buttons have more recently been used by the Japanese couturier, Issey Miyake. In 1946, however, she was joined in this work by Hans Coper, a young German engineer turned painter and sculptor. Together they began to make pots once more. His work, while more sculptural and visually daring, borrowed from her mastery of surface texture, colour and mood, and his collaboration restored her confidence. Together they created a totally new idiom, initially making functional pieces such as tea sets and coffee services which were sold through Hest's and Henry Rothschild's Sloane Street gallery, Primrose, and then more abstract bowls and bottles.

Coper left in 1958 to set up his own workshop. Lucie Rie always held that he was the greater artist but her pots,

severe yet lyrical, a constant refinement of her own mood and judgment, have their own powerful integrity which is seldom overshadowed. Her early work was in reduced earthenware, then later in stoneware, thrown with consummate skill on a Continental kick wheel, the glaze applied by brush to the raw clay and perhaps decorated with incised graffiti decoration then fired in an electric kiln.

One of her most startling achievements was a rough pitted glaze which she first used in the 1930s. Its effect suggests a variety of natural minerals fashioned into potters' shapes — volcanic rock, coral, marble or alabaster, according to the coarseness of the texture or the shade. She achieved it by using a special clay to which she applied a glaze which exploded all over the surface during the firing. Lucie Rie worked in earthenware, stoneware and — most difficult of all — porcelain. Her porcelain is delicate and shaped with a Chinese sensitivity whereas her stoneware is interesting mainly for the variety of experiments she tried on the glazes

which were sometimes omitted from parts of the vessels.

She worked slowly, starting with a new idea about every six months with a series of related shapes gradually evolving, each a variation on and refinement of another. Some were very small indeed. When the Takashimaya store in Tokyo planned a display of British pots to coincide with Expo 70, they asked Lucie Rie to contribute, in particular, a variety of sake cups.

Rie did not pretend to be a designer. Her pots "grew" on the wheel. In 1967 her work was the subject of an Arts Council Retrospective Exhibition. In 1981 the Sainsbury Centre of Visual Arts held a major exhibition of her work, which then went on to the Victoria and Albert Museum. In 1989, an exhibition of her work was held in Japan. When in her eighties, she was booked up for years ahead with commissions from all over the world, from museums and private collectors, for pots.

At the private view of the exhibition at the Victoria and Albert Museum few

people even recognised the retiring, diminutive figure of the artist who nevertheless, took great pleasure in watching the crowds admire her work.

In 1981 she was the subject of a notable television documentary, interviewed by David Attenborough at work in her studio, which perfectly captured her good humour and her enigmatic personality.

Rie's works were featured in museums around the world and are currently the subject of an exhibition at the Metropolitan Museum in New York.

She was appointed CBE in 1981 and created DBE in 1991.

Always generous and hospitable — her home-made rock cakes were nearly as famous as her pots — she was nevertheless an intensely private woman who would charmingly shrug off any questions about her family, her marriage to Hans Rie (from whom she parted after she came to England and whom she divorced in 1940) or any other aspect of her personal life. She had no children.

ELIZABETH FERRARS

Elizabeth Ferrars, crime fiction writer, died on March 30 aged 87. She was born on September 6, 1907.

FOR more than 50 years Elizabeth Ferrars wrote literature and constantly enjoyable crime fiction. Her first detective story, *Give A Corpse A Bad Name* appeared in 1940 and she had not laid down her pen at the time of her death, giving her readers some 60 titles which appeared at almost yearly intervals. Among them were *Zero at the Bone* (1967), *Foot in the Grave* (1973) and *In at the Kill* (1979).

Born Morna MacTaggart in Rangoon to a Scottish father and an Anglo-German mother, she was educated at Bedales and at University College, London, where she obtained a diploma in journalism in 1928. In 1932 and 1934 she produced, under her maiden name, two novels, *Turn Simple* and *Broken Music*.

But it was at the time of her marriage (her second) in 1940 to the plant physiologist Robert Brown, later Professor of Botany at Edinburgh University, that she began the career that was to bring so much pleasure to so many, starting from a clever basic idea he had suggested to her. Even now on the library shelves there is always to be found a generous block of Ferrars titles. She was popular in America, too, where she was known as Elizabeth X. Ferrars, a pen-name adopted with quiet mischievousness when her publisher there insisted on a second initial.

In a note that must have been wrung out of her for the re-issue of *Give A Corpse A Bad Name* in 1981 — she was one of the few living authors who modestly declined to comment on their own work in the encyclopaedic volume, *Twentieth Century Crime and Mystery Writers* — she declared she had not "taken to crime" for the sake of portraying murders. "Descriptions of violence", she wrote, "have always repelled me and I do not think there is scope within the limits of a detective story to

explore the mind of a criminal with any seriousness. But I have been writing stories since at least the age of 16 and if I did not write I should soon be very bored. I enjoy a good puzzle, good writing and original characterisation".

Her first half-dozen books featured a detective with a "Watson" who neatly reversed expectations by getting to the solution first but, she said once, "I found that I hated the two characters so desperately that I couldn't face writing another book about them". What she quietly arrived at in their place was not the chequered story in the classic mode but crime novels, books in which the interest is primarily in the reactions of the characters to a crime situation, generally murder, in which they find themselves by chance embroiled.

The people to whom she made such things happen are always solidly real. They eat, they choose, if they are women, clothes, they have their share of nicely human quirks, such as the secret passion entertained by Professor Basnet, a man she entangled with murder on some five different occasions, for a piece of cheese first thing in the day. The situations they encounter often have, too, that blend of the ordinary and the unexpected, such as the young man stepping off the night mail from Edinburgh who inexplicably heard his name called out on the station loudspeakers. It could possibly happen to me, readers say, and then ask how they would react to this and all the subsequent shocks and surprises.

Crime novels of this sort depend, to a far greater extent than the detective story, on the solidities of real life, and Elizabeth Ferrars had an unflinching feeling for these.

It is this consciousness of what really happens in the world, combined with a wit that has brought to her books over the half-century that she has been writing them the gift of enduringness. The quiet enjoyment they bring is likely to last for many a year.

She is survived by her husband.

WING COMMANDER JAMES STORRAR

Wing Commander James Storrar, DFC and Bar, AFC, Second World War fighter ace, died on March 29 aged 73. He was born on June 26, 1921.

IN A remarkable wartime flying career which extended virtually from beginning to end of hostilities and involved him in over a thousand hours of combat flying "Jas" Storrar shot down 15 enemy aircraft. He began with the RAF's first desperate battles against the Luftwaffe in the skies over the Dunkirk beachhead in the summer of 1940 and continued in the North African desert. Later he flew in support of the Normandy landings and subsequently was a fighter escort for daylight bombing raids, before ending the war commanding a fighter wing in Northern Italy.

James Eric Storrar was born into a family which has been in veterinary practice in Chester since the early years of the last century. He left Chester Grammar School at the age of 17 and with his mother's co-operation put up his age by a year so that he could apply for a commission in the Auxiliary Air Force. He was a natural pilot, rated "exceptional" during training, and after gaining his wings was posted to No 145 Squadron, then equipped with Blenheim bombers.

Fortunately it re-equipped with Hurricanes in March 1940, not long before the air battle with the Luftwaffe began in earnest, and it was in a Hurricane that Storrar scored his first combat victory. On May 23, 1940, with the German Army already rolling the British Expeditionary Force back to the Channel coast, he shot down an ME109 fighter and the next day got a Do17 bomber.

This early experience of combat over northern France against great odds stood him in good stead for the Battle of Britain. Indeed, by the time it began he was already an ace (five kills) having shot down several more German bombers as the Luftwaffe attacked shipping in the Channel in June and July. Towards the



end of July he came up against his first ME109s, shooting down two in three days and earning his first DFC at the end of the month for nine individual combat victories and shares in several others. He was still only 19.

During the Battle of Britain he continued this rate of execution, on one occasion shooting down two Stukas in a day. Life expectancy was not high as the RAF's margins of serviceability were eroded by enemy attrition. Like so many young men of that time Storrar recalled: "I looked no further than breakfast the next day, of having a cup of tea and offering up a silent prayer".

In September 1940 he was transferred to 73 Squadron and, after a period with a Hurricane high altitude interception flight, was posted to the Western Desert. There, early in 1941, he destroyed a number of Italian aircraft on the ground as well as shooting down a Fiat CR42 biplane fighter. Flying from an airfield

inside the perimeter of beleaguered Tobruk, he scored several more victories and was also once shot down.

When the Tobruk siege ended he had a "rest" period of test flying and ferry duty on the West Africa-Egypt air route, on one occasion having to force-land in jungle and make his way on foot to safety 70 miles away, contracting malaria in the process.

A squadron leader at the age of only 20, Storrar was given command of 65 Squadron in January 1943 and led it in fighter sweeps over France and the Low Countries shooting down one more ME109 and probably an Fw190 and getting his second DFC in October 1940. For the Normandy landings he flew a communications Hurricane, coordinating the tactical air support above the battlefield, and was one of the first Allied pilots to land in France after D-Day. Early in 1945 he was given command of a wing of three Mustang squadrons and was engaged on escort duties of daylight bomber raids. The end of the war saw him in northern Italy, in command of 239 Wing of Mustangs. While in Italy he met his wife Winifred (Freddie) who was a WAAC driver, and married her in Venice.

Though offered an extended commission at the end of the war he decided to follow in his family's footsteps and become a vet. He went to Edinburgh University to train in 1947, and, while a veterinary student, commanded the unit's Auxiliary Air Force squadron, flying the latest marks of Spitfire and the first jet aircraft. His flying pay was a welcome supplement to his grant, the more so as, unlike many undergraduates, he had a wife to support.

After qualifying he returned to Chester to the family practice. A gentle, unassuming bear of a man, he was a familiar figure locally, driving his Jaguar with its registration letters JAS. He retired from practice in 1990.

He is survived by his wife and by three sons — the eldest of whom is a vet — and a daughter.

PROFESSOR PETER PRATT

Peter Pratt, Professor of Crystal Physics at Imperial College, 1963-92, died on March 2 aged 67. He was born on March 10, 1927.

PETER PRATT was a contributor to the golden age of materials research in the United Kingdom, a period in the 1950s and 1960s when Britain and America were leaders in developing a basic understanding of the behaviour of materials, and in the development of new, improved materials.

The movement was driven by the requirements of the nuclear power programme for defence and aerospace. From the late 1950s Pratt gathered around him a dynamic team of young scientists who made major contributions to understanding the mechanical properties and microstructure of non-metallic materials, particularly ionic solids and ceramics, and later to the behaviour of cement and concrete.

He also played an influential role in the development of advanced engineering ceramics. Throughout his career he maintained, as a hobby, an interest in historical aspects of materials, from metallurgical investigations in archaeology to the use of natural composite materials in the English long bow.

As Professor of Crystal Physics at Imperial College for thirty years, Pratt played an influential role in making materials science an important, interdisciplinary scientific subject. His career spanned

a period when the Department of Metallurgy at Imperial College — recognising the increasing technological importance of non-metallic materials — such as ceramics, polymers and composites — changed its name to the Department of Materials.

Peter Lynn Pratt was educated at Cheltenham College. After graduating with a first in metallurgy from Birmingham University in 1948 he moved to the Cavendish Laboratory at Cambridge to obtain his PhD. This was an exciting time for materials science. The idea that slip occurs by the movement of dislocations was first introduced in the mid-1930s by Taylor, Orowan and Polanyi and, after the war, rapid advances were made in understanding the detailed mechanisms of plastic deformation in crystalline solids.

At Cambridge Pratt embarked on the study of the plastic deformation of ionic solids, a topic which continued to provide the theme for much of his early researches and which led him into engineering ceramics. E. Orowan and Sir Lawrence Bragg were strong influences on his research at the Cavendish.

After completing his PhD in 1952 he moved to the Harwell Laboratory where he spent two years studying deformation and brittle fracture in hexagonal metals.

In 1953 Pratt returned to Birmingham University as a lecturer in the metallurgy department which was then led by Professor (now Sir) Alan Cottrell. There he was



one of a number of young academics who, with Cottrell, developed the physics of metals and physical metallurgy into a rigorous scientific discipline.

Over a period of five years he worked on a range of topics but is probably best remembered for his recognition of the significance of the discovery by one of his students, Charles Newey (later Professor of Materials at the Open University), of charged dislocations of ionic solids, described in a classic paper by Eshelby, Newey, Pratt and Lidiard.

At the early age of 32 he became Reader in the department of metallurgy at Imperial College and in 1963 he was appointed Professor of Crystal Physics. His research group made considerable advances in ionic solids, ceramics, cement and concrete. He played a key role in the development of reaction bonded silicon nitride, an important material

for high temperature applications.

Pratt was a good judge of research needs and of the quality of the research students that he recruited. As a research supervisor he gave his students free rein to pursue their own ideas. He saw his role as that of providing a framework within which good people would find their own sense of direction without over-supervision. This resulted in considerable self-reliance among his post-graduates. The world-wide network of his former students occupying key positions in academic and industrial organisations includes professors at Cambridge and Harvard.

In the late 1970s he began to study the complicated behaviour underlying the apparently simple and mundane materials, cements and concretes. He established unique experimental facilities and developed new techniques to study, for the first time, the evolution of microstructure of cement, mortar and concrete during the hydration process and to relate these observations to their mechanical performance.

His group rapidly established an international reputation in this field and he developed a long-term association in the UK with the Building Research Establishment and in the US with the NSF Centre for Advanced Cement-based Materials and the National Cement and Ceramics Laboratory.

He is survived by his wife Lydia and two sons.

Appointments in the Church

The Rev Andrew Howell, Vicar, St John the Evangelist, Poole, to be priest-in-charge, St John the Baptist, Smallbridge, and St James, Wardle (Manchester).
The Rev Stuart Huxton, Team Rector, Wombourne w. Tysall and Bobbington Team Ministry: to be Vicar, Little Aston (Lichfield).
The Rev Robert Innes, Assistant Curate, St Mary's, Acocks Green (Birmingham): to be Chaplain to Northampton General Hospital (Peterborough).
The Rev Norman Jones, Team Rector, the Eccles Team Ministry: to be also Priest-in-charge, Christ Church, Patricroft (Manchester).
The Rev Hilary Jowett, Chaplain with Central University Hospitals, Sheffield, and As-

stant Curate, St Andrew, Sharncliffe, to be Assistant Curate, St Mark, Broomfield (Sheffield).
The Rev Lesley McCormack, Assistant Chaplain, West Suffolk Hospital, Bury St Edmunds, and Assistant Curate (NSM), Great Barton (St Edmundsbury and Ipswich): to be Chaplain of Kettering General Hospital (Peterborough).
The Rev Betty McVey, Team Vicar, East Farnworth and Kearsley Team Ministry: to be Priest-in-charge, St Clement, Spalding (Manchester).
The Rev Peter May, currently has permission to officiate, diocese Southwark and formerly Chaplain of Lyon, France (Europe): to be Team Rector, Horley Team Ministry, diocese Southwark.

The Rev Katherine Mundy, Industrial Chaplain with Church at Work (London): to be Resident Minister, All Saints and St Mary Magdalene, West Bromwich, and Industrial Chaplain, Black Country Urban Industrial Mission (Lichfield).
The Rev David Pollard, formerly in chaplaincy work in Spain (Europe): to be Vicar, St James, Doncaster (Sheffield).
The Rev Denis Samways, Vicar, Boosbeck w. Moorsholm: to be Rector, Kirby Misperton w. Normanby, Edstone and Salton (York).
The Rev Wendy Smith, Assistant Curate, Stoke on Trent Team Ministry: to be Team Vicar of that Team Ministry, w. particular responsibility for the District of St Paul's, Mount Pleasant (Lichfield).

The Rev Canon Gill Sumner, formerly Vice-Principal of the Oxford Ministry Course, and now NSM, Kirdlington w. Blethingham, Weston-on-the-Green and Hampton Gay (Oxford): to be Local Ministry Officer, and Priest-in-charge (part-time), Holy Trinity, Wistanstow; St Michael, Cwm Head (Hereford).
The Rev Anthony Tooby, Assistant Curate, St Peter and St Paul, Warsop w. St Augustine, Sookholme: to be Associate Priest, St Giles and St Paulinus, Ollerton w. St Matthew, Boughton (Southwell).

Retirement

The Rev Simon Broughton, Vicar, Christ Church, Northampton (Peterborough): to retire as from April 30.

T.V. UNIVERSITY CLAIM ON PEAK HOURS

The Speaker took the Chair at 11 o'clock. Mr. Buchanan (Glasgow, Springburn, Lab.) moved a resolution calling on the Government to encourage the establishment of a university of the air in television and sound radio and, in the formal education of both children and adults, to sponsor a suitable television and radio service.

Mr. Chataway (Lewisham North, C.) said the first priority should be a more rapid development of local closed circuit systems. Locally controlled television had advantages over central control.

If the case for providing a fourth channel rested on the idea of a university of the air he did not think it was very strong. There was plenty of spare time on the existing channels for a considerable extension of national educational broadcasts.

Miss Lee — I hope the hon. member will not be too alarmed if I say that what I am now doing are a number of feasibility tests into the hours available, the cost, and the whole technical structure. Nothing will be put before the University Grants Committee until we have first looked into the feasibility tests.

ON THIS DAY

April 3 1965

The University of the Air, now known as the Open University, has over 75,000 students. Jennie Lee, as Minister for the Arts, was responsible for its launch in 1969. The Times, in supporting the project, might be a "gimmick", showed a lack of judgment.

Under the present set-up, the more obvious it became that ultimately, if there were to be degree courses on television, they would have to be a leading corps of lecturers of the new age expert in their subjects but also having special expertise in broadcasting. She did not like the kind of cynicism and defeatism that she had found in some quarters in dealing with this project.

The motion was agreed to.

"University of the Air"

There is all the difference in the world

between a policy and a gimmick, but the line was crossed too often in the House of Commons debate yesterday on a possible university of the air. The very term is an illusion in the sense that it holds out hopes that it cannot possibly fulfil. Nobody is questioning the value of television and sound broadcasting in education, nor the additional part that television can play in the future — particularly with closed circuit systems for schools, colleges, and universities. There are already a number of valuable developments of this nature, and there will certainly be many more. But to speak of a university of the air is to encourage hopes that the television viewer will be offered the range and depth of courses open to the university student.

This would be misleading nonsense. There is not the time available on television — even if a whole channel were devoted to education — to cover more than a fraction of the territory. This is still true allowing for the cooperation with radio and correspondence courses that the more realistic proponents of the scheme insist upon. There is also the question of cost. Would it really be a more sensible use of scarce resources to build up a grandiose project of this nature rather than to concentrate what is available upon supplementing existing systems of education?

CRICKET

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W Indies caught on the back foot by Australia

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TIMES SPORT

MONDAY APRIL 3 1995



McManaman, who won the Coca-Cola Cup for Liverpool, leaves Stubbs, of Bolton Wanderers, trailing on the way to scoring his first goal at Wembley yesterday. Photograph: Hugh Routledge

Flying winger sparkles as Liverpool win Coca-Cola Cup Magnificent McManaman

Bolton Wanderers 1
Liverpool 2

By Ros Hughes
FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

IN THE morning, London had bathed in sunshine, the sweat and valour of thousands of marathon runners, the spirit of man and woman in the evening, we had the same spirit, the reminder that our national game can also have great spirit and conviction, but there was also an absolute young master, by the name of Steve McManaman, who can lift thousands — and indeed, by television, many millions — to live dreams.

McManaman won the Coca-Cola Cup final. That sounds ridiculous, for this was a final that reiterated all that has ever been said about the team game — it will sound even more ridiculous in Bolton, where they know their team from a supposedly lower division had at times outplayed, outpassed and out-thought the team that was to defeat them — but shed no tears for the game. It began in a carnival atmosphere, it ended with orchestrated fireworks at the Liverpool end and then up the royal steps strode Ian Rush. He has played on the Wembley stage many times, he has won virtually all that the domestic game can offer, but now he was the captain, the first man to get his hands on the first footballing silverware of 1995.

He was sent up there by Roy Evans and if Bolton, with their seemingly unquenchable desire to win something, had to salute another, then, thankfully, it was Evans, for he, having spent his life at Anfield, having been a self-effacing member of the backroom staff, had taken over his club little more than a year ago and remarkably restored, in his first full season, so many of the tenets

which made the Liverpool reds the true colour of English football.

Evans, in middle age, is almost desperately young by comparison with some of those managers whom he has served, but a more telling generation game was played as Liverpool rose to the royal box. There was Rush, 33, just having the legs to stay ahead of his team. Right behind him was McManaman, a full decade and a generation apart, ready to receive the Alan Hardaker Trophy for the man of the match. There, greeting them, with the Coca-Cola Cup, was Sir Stanley Matthews, who turned 80 this year.

With football's family so complete, the afternoon owed us reparation for the ills that have attacked the game like a virus and, with 33,000 Lancastrians from each of the two clubs, we were to get it. The stadium had the setting of an omen. Liverpool's supporters, at the tunnel end, were

bathed throughout in an arc of sunlight. Boltonians, here for their first significant Wembley outing since 1958, were cast in shade.

Yet equality ruled as soon as the game began. Bruce Rioch, who had shared England youth training with Roy Evans 30 years ago, has built Bolton into a passing side that does

United held by Leeds 25
Resolute Blackburn 25
Hartson shows way 24

not believe itself to be second-rate. Certainly, they were not yesterday and, as both teams persisted in trying to pass their way through the other, we had an interesting, but largely unpenetrative, first 20 minutes.

However, Bolton were bold and it was to be Jason McAteer, born in Bootle, the same as Evans, who

attempted to be the first man to really run at opponents from deep. His dynamism presented Lee with an opening on the half-hour, but, as James raced impetuously off his line, the winger tried too hastily to lob him and cleared the bar by a distance.

That was the prelude to three minutes which shaped the game and the ultimate result. In the 35th minute, following a throw-in by Phillips, young Thompson allowed the ball to bounce over his shoulder, half-turned and struck the ball with his right foot. For a left winger, sold for only £250,000 by Kevin Keegan, this was unusual, but as the ball gathered speed, aimed truly for the top corner of the net, James, with remarkable elasticity, sprang to his left and managed just to palm it onto his crossbar.

Three minutes later, McManaman's virtuosity ran through the white shirts. This sinewy, skeletal

young Liverpoolian collected the ball 20 yards outside Bolton's area. He ran mesmerically, an angled run with the ball at his feet, and when Stubbs made a half-hearted tackle, when Green then came across to cover, McManaman simply pursued his instinct. He nudged the ball through the legs of Green, he saw the goalkeeper, Branagan, in two minds and he rolled the ball almost with a nonchalant caress wide of the keeper. James, with his shaven head, was to escape another rush of blood. When he came off his line, McManay passed the ball into the area and Paatelainen shot a foot wide. The morale of Bolton was surging, their willpower was pushing Liverpool ever backwards and yet that is when the reds drew blood.

In the 67th minute, McManaman again broke free. This time, he paced down the left, cut inside Green, dodged away from Seagraves and, with his right foot, curled the ball tantalisingly close to Branagan. The keeper touched it, but still it nestled inside the far post.

It was all over, all but the courage of the losers. Rioch had substituted Bergsson for Green and, within a minute, Bergsson was heading the ball into the danger area. Paatelainen flicked it on and Thompson scored. The former Newcastle player had his back to goal, but, this time, on the turn, he was to use his left foot and, this time, no goalkeeper, no acrobat, would stop him from claiming a consolation. The real consolation, the real joy, was in the sportsmanship with which McManaman, at the very end, ran to lift McAteer, the best of the Bolton opponents, off the lush turf at Wembley.

BOLTON WANDERERS (4-4-2): K Branagan — S Green (sub: G Bergsson, 67min), M Seagraves, A Stubbs, J Phillips — D Lee, J McAteer, R Seaton, Thompson — M Paatelainen, J McGinlay
LIVERPOOL (3-4-1-2): D James — J Scates, N Peacock, P Bates — R Jones, J Redondo, J Barnes, S Bramble — S McManaman — J Rush, F Fowler
Referee: P Don

Point proved to Anfield doubters

By Our Sports Staff

STEVE McMANAMAN, the two-goal Liverpool hero, said: "Give Bolton their due, they battled back in the second half like we knew they would. But it was a great team effort by our lads and I was just happy to get two goals like that."

"It's nice to get a win against them for a change but most of all we're pleased to have won a trophy again. A lot of people wrote us off at the beginning of the season but we've come back and won one of the three major trophies."

Ian Rush, the Liverpool captain, had no doubt where the plaudits should go for his team's success, saying: "Steve's goals were absolutely magnificent individual efforts and it's great for me to pick up a fifth

medal. The great thing is that we are in Europe again next year, getting back to the old Liverpool tradition."

"It was Steve's day with two great individual goals. He was outstanding. I'm delighted to have five winners' medals myself — and I hope to get a sixth next year. I am delighted for the fans because we'd not won anything for a few years."

Roy Evans, the Liverpool manager, was more sober in his assessment of the victory, saying: "We did it the hard way today because I think we can play much better than that but there was a lot of commitment in the performance and two great goals which have put us back in Europe again and that's the big thing."

Bruce Rioch, the Bolton manager, paid tribute to his team of underdogs, who had beaten Norwich,

West Ham and Ipswich on their way to the final. Rioch, strongly linked with Arsenal, who are still pondering over their manager for next season, said: "I'm very pleased with the boys. They have done very well. They never gave up. In the end, it was not quite enough but I've got to say I'm pleased for Roy Evans, who has done an excellent job for Liverpool."

Howard Kendall yesterday described as "ruthless" his first managerial dismissal in English football, which came after just 12 weeks in charge at Notts County. The 48-year-old former Everton manager was sacked within an hour of the first division's bottom club's 2-1 home defeat by Barnsley on Saturday, mainly for "off-the-field reasons".

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THE LOAN CORPORATION

London in April, a cruel month for some

For Portuguese marathon runners, Oxford oarsmen and the father of the reserve Cambridge cox, it was not the best of sporting weekends. But for the rest of us, it was glorious — the sort of weekend that puts a spring in the step of outside broadcast units and gladdens the heart of BBC executive producers.

But let us spare a thought for the unfortunates for whom this weekend will never be recalled with a happy, sunny glow — Antonio Pinto and Manuella Machado, both of whom had the misfortune to lose their marathons in the final 385 yards and for the Oxford eight, which for the third year running lost a Boat Race in the first 385 yards. That just leaves the father of the reserve Cambridge cox and, if the truth be known,

Barry Davies, for it is he, did not have that bad a weekend anyway.

His big moment came soon after Steve Rider handed over from amid a sea of waving beer glasses on the Putney embankment. Instantly, Davies brought a quiet dignity to proceedings, knowledgeably introducing each oarsman. Richard Phelps, the Cambridge president, hove into the camera's view, a man who, according to Davies, admitted that the worst part of his job was telling people they were not in the boat. "One case in particular," The words hung in the air.

A few minutes later, Davies reached the Cambridge cox, Russell Stalford. "Last year he was de-selected. This year he's had a really cracking battle with Mark Davies, who this



MATTHEW BOND
TV ACTION REPLAY

year became the unlucky man." For those who knew the story, it was an emotional moment. For those who did not, Davies's sympathetic colleagues were about to provide enlightenment.

Suddenly the normally sedate build-up to the Boat Race proper was interrupted by extended coverage of Goldie, the Cambridge reserve crew, demolishing their Oxford opponents, Isis. "At last, Mark Davies has been able to steer the course he wanted," said

Barry Davies, his voice choking with the sort of emotion he normally reserves for the World Cup final. Chris Baillieu came to the aid of anyone still in the dark. "What Barry is too modest to say, is that Mark Davies is his son."

That little bit of Davies family history over, the BBC's coverage of the race proper got under way — and very good it was too. The helicopter camera provided superb coverage of the overlapping blades in the exciting early stages, while

the one functioning onboard camera gave a splendid cox's view of the choppy conditions after Hammersmith Bridge.

Yesterday, of course, saw the same glorious conditions and the commentary baton passed seamlessly from Davies and Baillieu to David Coleman and Brendan Foster. Sue Barker dug out an old tracksuit to show she is an excellent replacement for the panto Bob Wilson, while the World Cup marathon winner, Richard Nerurkar, chased round the course on a motorbike. From a commentary point of view, all the angles were covered.

The same, however, could not be said of the pictures, with the mobile cameras clearly causing the director all sorts of technical problems. Rather too often it looked as if the

choice of whether to go to the men's race, the women's or pursue the wheelchair athletes was dictated by which mobile camera happened to be working.

But the biggest problem, I suspect, lies largely outside the BBC's control. By starting at 9am, the elite women get 25 minutes of undivided coverage. The elite men, however, have to compete for coverage with the women, the wheelchair athletes and umpteen miles of fun-runners. This was particularly frustrating towards the end of the women's race, when the director had to choose between Sobanska's final push down Birdcage Walk, just as Monaghan and Cerón started reeling in the unfortunate Pinto on the Embankment. There must be a better way.

Australia bowlers take command in first Test

West Indies on verge of humiliating defeat

FROM JOHN WOODCOCK IN BRIDGETOWN, BARBADOS

AFTER going for 60 years without losing a Test match at Bridgetown's Kensington Oval, West Indies are on the way to being beaten there for the second successive time. Late on the third afternoon of this first Test match against Australia, they were 184 for 9 in their second innings, leading by only 33 runs.

The cricket Australia have been playing will have done more than any treatment to restore their team manager, Bobby Simpson, who is in a local hospital for a week, suffering with a thrombosis in the leg. A coach enjoys nothing more than to see his players doing the basic things with professional efficiency, and in this respect there has been no comparison between the sides.

As was the case when England won on the same pitch last April, with Fraser and Caddick taking most of the wickets, the occasional ball has moved about quite disconcertingly off the odd patch of mostly straw-coloured grass. Lara, for example, was out yesterday morning to one that lifted and left him and which a less good player would almost certainly have missed. Of the first 25 wickets to fall in the match, 13 went to catches at slip or by the wicketkeeper, sure evidence of lateral movement.

To play as safely yet as forcefully as Steve Waugh and Healy did on Saturday, while taking Australia to a crucial first-innings lead of 151, was

wholly admirable. The consistency of Australia's quicker bowlers has paid off, and the difference between the two spinners, Warne and Hooper, is, of course, incalculable.

Warne bowled the first over yesterday and his seventh ball of the morning, a rank long hop in fact, was hooked hard and straight by Campbell into Steve Waugh's midriff at mid-wicket, some 25 yards from the bat. Two balls later there was an almighty commotion when the Australians thought Lara was caught off bat and pad by Boon. Warne's forward short leg, having looked as though he was about to uphold their appeal, umpire Barker waved his hand in front of his face by way of dismissing it. The indignation of the Australians was not entirely convincing.

SCOREBOARD FROM BRIDGETOWN

WEST INDIES: First Innings 195 (B C Lara 65, C L Hooper 60, B P Julien 4 for 36)	
S L Williams c Healy b McGrath	10
S Campbell c S R Waugh b Warne	6
B C Lara c Healy b McGrath	6
B L Hooper c Baillieu b Warne	1
* B Richardson b Reifel	36
J C Adams not out	38
* J R Murray c S R Waugh b McGrath	23
W K M Benjamin b McGrath	26
C E L Ambrose c Blewett b McGrath	6
* A Walsh b McGrath	4
C G G McGrath not out	1
Extras (lb 3, nb 8)	9
Total (9 wickets)	184
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-19, 2-25, 3-31, 4-37, 5-135, 6-135, 7-170, 8-176, 9-180	
Bowling figures unavailable	
Umpires: L Barker (West Indies) and S Venkataraghavan (India) TV replay umpire: H Moore (West Indies)	

AUSTRALIA: First Innings	
M J Slater c Williams b W K M Benjamin	18
* M A Taylor c Hooper b C G G McGrath	55
B C G G McGrath	40
D C Boon c S R Waugh b Warne	20
B E Waugh c Murray b Ambrose	40
S R Waugh	65
D K C G G McGrath	14
G S Blewett c Murray b Ambrose	14
* J R Murray c S R Waugh b McGrath	74
B P Julien c C G G McGrath b Hooper	31
P R Reifel c W K M Benjamin	4
S K Warne c Adams b Walsh	6
G D McGrath b W K M Benjamin	4
Extras (lb 3, nb 5)	18
Total	348
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-27, 2-72, 3-121, 4-165, 5-184, 6-220, 7-220, 8-231, 9-321	
Bowling figures unavailable	
Umpires: L Barker (West Indies) and S Venkataraghavan (India) TV replay umpire: H Moore (West Indies)	

Lara, anyway, was gone within half an hour, as was Williams, both of them caught at the wicket off McGrath. Williams was slashing at something short and wide; Lara, though, got what to him was a fast, rising leg cutter.

That was 31 for 3. When, at 57, Hooper drove Julian to deep mid-off at a comfortable catching height, the match seemed as good as over.

Richardson's only consolation was to find that he still possesses the game's most powerful and exotic square drive. Several times he left the covers standing with it. But in the last over before lunch he was bowled by Reifel, aiming to clip a straight ball over mid-wicket, another wicket too lightly surrendered. Two off drives for four and six by Hooper, both in the same over

from Warne, were the only other blows that West Indies had so far landed.

Until last month the highest partnership ever made for the seventh wicket in first-class cricket was on this ground in the corresponding Test match. With West Indies in similarly desperate straits against Australia, Denys Atkinson and Clairemonte Depenza, both Barbadians, put on 347. That was a different sort of pitch, another sort of game. West Indies' immediate target now was to avoid an innings defeat and the indignity of losing with two days to spare.

The day was hot even for the Caribbean, the capacity crowd, apart from the Australians among them, were as much puzzled, I think, as subdued.

Adams, however, is a stickler, and Murray helped him to add 44 before going to a wonderful catch by Steve Waugh. Running back from short mid-wicket, Waugh just got to a huge steeper and held it falling forward and rolling. McGrath, who had been alternating with Julian and Reifel as Warne's partner, took the next three wickets, having Winston Benjamin leg before. Ambrose caught at mid-on and bowling Walsh.

West Indies were going down as though they were playing not in an important Test match but in a one-day international. They will find it hard to get back at Australia after this.



McGrath captures the wicket of Williams

Becker lifts Germany into semi-finals

BORIS BECKER secured a semi-final showdown between Germany and Russia in the Davis Cup tennis competition when he beat Richard Krajicek, of Holland, 6-3, 6-4, 3-6, 6-1 in Utrecht yesterday. As the 27-year-old gave his country a 3-1 quarter-final winning lead over Holland with victory in the opening reverse singles match, Yevgeny Kafelnikov did likewise for Russia, triumphing over Wayne Ferreira in straight sets in Moscow to see off South Africa.

With the United States and Sweden having booked their semi-final meeting, the world No 2 Andre Agassi, pulled out of the final singles match against Rocco Pietrangeli, of Italy, in Palermo with a bad back. Jared Palmer, normally a double player, defeated the Italian 6-4, 6-3 to give the Americans a 5-0 quarter-final whitewash.

Varsities view Vase

FOOTBALL: Officials of Oxford and Cambridge Universities have discussed the possibility of entering a combined team for the FA Challenge Vase, in a potential revival of Pegasus, twice Amateur Cup winners in the 50s (David Miller writes). The indifferent quality of this year's University match at Craven Cottage on Saturday, indicated an urgent need to improve standards. It is doubtful if a club team could meet financial and ground requirements for the Vase but a test fixture is proposed. Oxford's 1-0 victory was secured when Richard Washington scored the only goal from a corner after six minutes.

Cleland snatches lead

MOTOR SPORT: John Cleland, right, and Richard Rydell took first blood in the 1995 Auto Trader RAC British touring car championship yesterday, each enjoying untroubled victories in the opening rounds at Donington Park. Cleland, the 1989 champion, driving a Vauxhall, leads the series after a victory and a second place behind Rydell, the Swede, in a Volvo.



Whitaker fails in Paris

EQUESTRIANISM: Roger-Yves Bost gave French spectators a home victory in Paris in the last Volvo World Cup qualifier before next month's final in Gothenburg. Michael Whitaker, with the disadvantage of going first in the 13-horse jump-off, failed to pressurise the field when Everest Two-step lowered the penultimate fence to finish ninth. Nick Skelton finished tenth with Everest Dollar Girl.

Bracknell in trouble

ICE HOCKEY: Bracknell Bees, beaten at home by Paisley Pirates and in midweek by Slough Jets, will be hard-pressed to retain their premier division status. Milton Keynes Kings are in similar trouble after their loss to Telford Tigers. In the play-offs, five Flyers are the only side to have won their first two games, while Durham Wasps and the champions, Sheffield Steelers, are still searching for their first win.

Cyphers slide out

BOWLS: Cyphers, skipped by the world indoor singles champion, Andy Thomson, and Cambridge Park, skipped by Wynne Richards, suffered unexpected defeats in the Manchester Unity national indoor fours championship yesterday. Cyphers, who have won the title six times, were beaten 19-12 by Leicester in the quarter-finals, while Cambridge Park lost 23-18 to Ipswich in the semi-finals.

Spaniard loses top spot

TENNIS: Arantxa Sánchez Vicario, right, from Spain, will forfeit her place at the top of the world rankings as a result of the ankle injury that forced her to withdraw from the Family Circle Magazine Cup in Hilton Head, South Carolina. She will be out of action for around three weeks after sustaining the injury while qualifying for the quarter-finals, from which she scratched.



Speed record falls

POWERBOATING: Charles Burnett III, of the United States, broke the world record for Class II offshore powerboats on Lake Windermere at the weekend with a final speed of 135.78mph. He had previously set the record last year with a figure of 124.04mph. On Saturday, he sped over the lake in his 28ft Skater catamaran at 128mph and then continued until he had broken his target of 130mph.

Stearn sinks Wales

LACROSSE: Di Stearn, the newly-appointed England captain, who has played in three World Cups, scored four goals in her first game as captain when England defeated Wales 11-5 in the first home international of the season at Cardiff on Saturday. Wales fielded a mother and daughter as Vivian Jones collected her 82nd cap and her daughter, Sara, received her first.

SNOW REPORT

	Depth (cm)	U	Conditions	Runs to resort	Weather (Spm)	Last snow
AUSTRIA						
Lach	175	380	good	heavy	slushy	sun 7 1/4
GERMANY						
Obergrün	70	175	good	varied	good	fine 5 1/4
Schladming	30	190	fair	heavy	slush	rain 9 2/4
St Anton	100	540	good	varied	good	fat 1 1/4
FRANCE						
Alpe d'Huez	280	480	good	heavy	good	sun -1 29/3
Les Arcs	175	440	good	crusty	good	sun 5 29/3
Val d'Isère	185	380	good	heavy	good	sun 6 29/3
SWITZERLAND						
Arosa	145	180	good	heavy	good	line 7 1/4
Grindelwald	50	280	good	varied	slush	fine 8 1/4
Mürren	120	270	good	varied	fair	fine 8 1/4
Wengen	80	240	good	varied	good	fine 9 1/4
Zermatt	90	340	good	varied	good	sun 4 29/3

Source: Ski Club of Great Britain. U - lower slopes; V - upper; art - artificial.



SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

BY ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

Hugh Kelsey, who died a fortnight ago aged 69, was the author or co-author of more than 40 books on bridge. He played for Scotland 12 times and won the Gold Cup (the premier British team event) twice. He was the bridge correspondent of *The Scotsman*. Several of his books have become classics, including *Killing Defence* and (with Michael Glauret) *Bridge Odds for Practical Players*. His book with Geza Oltik, *Adventures in Card Play*, describes the most difficult hands I have ever come across in a most approachable way. The hand today is from his book *Deceptive Plays in Bridge*.

Dealer South Love-all. Rubber bridge

♠ 885			
♥ 10882			
♦ 95			
♣ 883			
N	E	S	W
♠ A 10 7 3 2			
♥ A 8 3			
♦ 10 8 2			
♣ 7 4			
♠ Q J			
♥ A Q 4			
♦ A K 7 3			
♣ A J 10 5			

Contract: 3NT by South. Lead: Six of hearts

South opens 2NT and North raises to 3NT. When West leads a heart to East's jack, the declarer's only genuine chance is to win the queen of hearts, cross to dummy with a diamond and take a club finesse. By then, though, West will be able to tell that South has ace and queen of hearts, ace-king of diamonds and the ace-jack of clubs. As this will give him nine tricks if West plays passively, West will switch to a spade.

The declarer can divert West from the killing switch by winning the first heart with the ace. When West wins the king of clubs, he will place his partner with the queen of hearts, and so continue with a low heart, enabling South to score the queen for his ninth trick.

Note that winning the first heart with the ace is quite safe — all it can ever cost is an overtrick. If the club king is outside, the declarer still has nine tricks — one heart, and four in each minor.

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

CLASSICS

CECROPS
a. A Titan
b. A two-faced giant
c. Founder of Athens

CARNEADES

a. A lost play of Euripides
b. A Greek philosopher
c. An Athenian tribe

AMMON

a. A town in Syracuse
b. A Carthaginian admiral
c. The Egyptian Zeus

SYNECDOCHE

a. The Spartan war council
b. A part for whole
c. The heuristic method

Answers page 24

KEENE on CHESS

BY RAYMOND KEENE, CHESS CORRESPONDENT

London tournaments
Chris Dunworth has organised another international standard tournament in London. He has established himself as the most active impresario for tournaments of international master level and his events create experience for young British players. A feature of the events is the bloodthirsty chess, often leading to attractive finishes, as in the two games which follow.

White: Summerscale
Black: Holland
St Peters de Beauvoir Tournament, London 1995

Grunfeld Defence
1 d4 Nf6
2 Nf3 g6
3 c4 Bg7
4 Nc3 d5
5 d5 0-0
6 Be2 c5
7 dxc5 Qa5
8 cxd5 Ne4
9 0-0 Nxc3
10 dxc3 Qxc5
11 e4 Qc3
12 Bb1 b6
13 Bb2 Qc5
14 Bg7 Kg7
15 Qd2 Bb7
16 Ne5 f6
17 Nf3 e5
18 dxe5 Qe7
19 Rb1 Rd8
20 Qf4 Qxe6
21 Rf7+ Rd7
22 Nd4 Qe5
23 Qe5 b5
24 Bb5 Rf7

Sicilian Defence
1 e4 c5
2 c3 d5
3 exd5 Qxd5
4 d4 Nf6
5 N3 Bg4
6 Qa4- Qc7
7 Bc4 cxd5
8 cxd5 e6
9 g4 Qe7
10 e4 Se7
11 Be3 Nd9
12 Bxd5 exd5
13 Ne2 Bf6
14 Rc1 0-0
15 e4 f6
16 Qf3 d4
17 cxd4 Nxd4
18 Qd4 Rxd4
19 b3 Bb4+

White resigns

White's 24th move, Bb5, was brilliant. The idea is that after 24. Bb5 Rxc7; 25. Ne6, followed by Nxc7, White makes a decisive gain of material.

White: Olesen
Black: Britton
St Peters de Beauvoir International, 1995

Winning Move
This position is from the game Chekhov - Lutikov, USSR 1951. The key to this position is the unexpected state of the white queen on a6. How did Black exploit this?

By Raymond Keene



Solution: page 24

Defiant Conner staring at defeat

FROM BARRY PICKTHALL IN SAN DIEGO

DENNIS CONNER faced being knocked out of the America's Cup yesterday without getting through to the finals for the first time in more than two decades. The Cup master, who has either defended or challenged for the sporting world's oldest trophy a record five times since acting as starting helmsman aboard Ted Hood's winning 12-metre yacht *Courageous* in 1974, was one loss away from being eliminated from the semi-finals of the Citizen Cup defence trials.

His potential demise last night at the hands of Leslie

finger thickness short of the yacht's former 10-metre draft measurement. Just as ironically, all that was required to save his \$15 million campaign was one simple screw. "If they had put a self-tapping screw into the bulb at the point of measurement, that would have sufficed," John Doerr, the jury chairman, confided yesterday.

Instead, Conner's yacht was stripped of her one-point win against *Mighty Mary* last Tuesday and forced into a rematch against Bill Koch's women's team yesterday. If he won, then Conner would face a final showdown today.

Conner, however, was not going down without a fight, for he has posed his own protest against Kevin Mahaney's rival yacht, *Young America*, which has already won a place in the defence finals. "We think they have re-optimised their boat during a no-change period," Jim Brady, Conner's navigator, said after *Stars & Stripes* lost to *Young America* on Saturday.

"They appear to be much faster upwind and slower downwind which suggests that they have made an appendage change," he added in the hope that the jury might reverse the race order and give Conner's men a second chance of survival.

AMERICA'S CUP: Citizen Cup: Defence semi-finals: *Young America* (B Nelson) vs *Stars & Stripes* (D Conner). Sides: Overall standings: *Young America* 8 wins, 1 defeat; 2. *Mighty Mary* (L Egnott) 3, 4, 3.

Eleven solo yachts including Niah Vaughan and Robin Davies, the British sailors, set out from Punta del Este, Uruguay, yesterday to complete the final 6,000-mile stage of the BOC Challenge round-the-world race back to Charleston, South Carolina. The start was delayed by gale force winds for 24 hours.



Conner fighting on

Egnott's women's crew on *Mighty Mary* came about after the race jury ruled that the keel change made to his yacht *Stars & Stripes* a week ago had been illegal. That change had been forced on Conner after the 20-ton lead bulb on *Stars & Stripes* came perilously close to falling off midway through a race and was deemed "dissimilar" to the keel it replaced. And the difference? Seven millimetres.

After a week of claims and counter arguments, it transpired late on Saturday that the *Stars & Stripes* replacement keel fell less than a



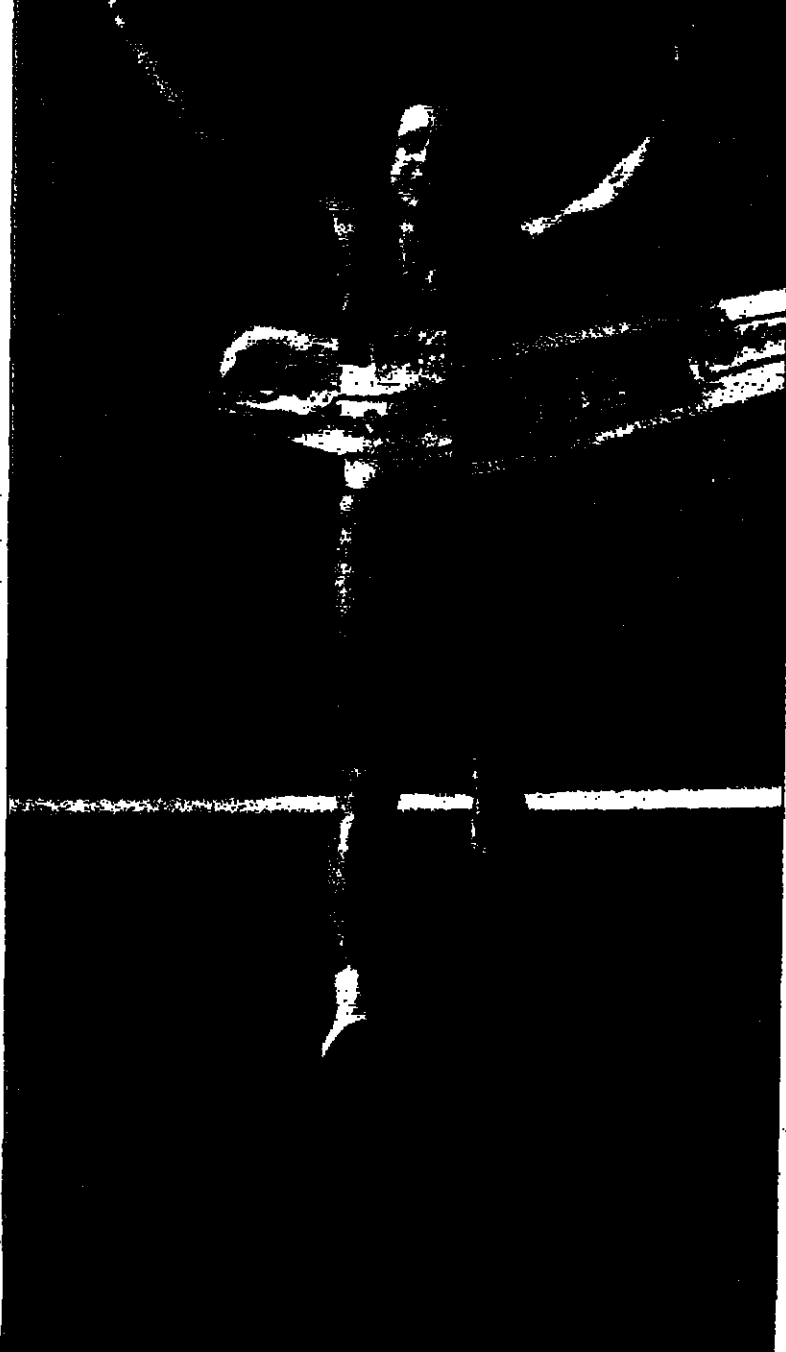
love fighting

Sharks hold nerve to take league title

Mexican triumphs for second year running as Pinto fades after setting fierce pace

London streets paved with gold for Cerón

By DAVID POWELL, ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT



Sobanska celebrates her moment of triumph in the women's race

ANTONIO PINTO sat back in his chair and smiled, seeing the funny side. "It happens," he said. What else could he say? He had failed to heed his own advice and paid dearly in the most absorbing race in the 15-year history of the London Marathon.

Beforehand, Pinto had warned Dionicio Cerón and Steve Monaghan that, if they went off at sub 2hr 08min pace, as they said they might, conditions would be favourable. He would "follow them with a sack and put them in as I go past". He forgot his sack, but Cerón and Monaghan had theirs.

At 16 miles, Pinto, the 1992 London champion, from Portugal, was 31 seconds clear, his moment forgotten as he burned up the roads inside world best pace of 2hr 08min 50sec; at 20 miles, he was 62 seconds clear, still running at 2hr 07min 15sec pace.

Monaghan, the Commonwealth champion, from Australia, had given up thoughts of winning, but Cerón, the defending champion, from Mexico, had not. He took up the chase, dropping all but Monaghan, and together they set off in pursuit of Pinto.

"Off the cobbles we were smoking," Monaghan said, recalling the 23rd mile, past the Tower of London. For almost three more miles, Pinto kept his lead, but Cerón and Monaghan had him in their sights and, into the last mile, they went by.

Pinto nipped in behind the new leaders, but it was a token gesture, lasting no more than a quarter of a mile. As they approached the turn into The Mall for the final furlong, Cerón was two strides ahead and he held on to become the first man to win the London race twice. With a time second only to Steve Jones's course record of 2hr 08min 16sec, Cerón recorded 2hr 08min

30sec. Monaghan followed two seconds later for the closest London Marathon finish, barring that in the inaugural year, when Inge Simonsen and Dick Beardsley crossed the line together by agreement. Pinto recorded 2hr 08min 43sec, the first occasion that three runners had beaten 2hr 09min in London.

Cerón said that he had always been confident that Pinto would come back. The Mexican's performance demonstrated why NutraSweet, the race sponsor, parted with some \$200,000 (£133,000) to ensure his participation. In all, with prize-money and bonuses, Cerón collected some \$280,000, the biggest

the highest placed. Still no Briton has broken 2hr 10min in any marathon for six years. Evans almost duplicated his previous best, his fifth place in London in 1992, when he ran 2hr 10min 36sec. He was fifth again, but five seconds faster. McColgan's performance fuels the doubt over whether she can make her mark at world level again. A former 10,000 metres world champion, her move to the marathon has not been convincing. Yesterday, she was out of the running before halfway. After her winning debut in New York in 2hr 27min 32sec, each of her three marathons has been slower than the last. Yesterday, she slipped to 2hr 31min 14sec.

Katrin Dorre, from Germany, the winner for the last three years, was seventh. Neither Dorre nor McColgan had mentioned McColgan as a threat, and the new champion, from Poland, astonished even herself. "I am surprised to beat McColgan, Dorre and [Manuela] Machado," Sobanska said.

Machado's front-running went unrewarded as the Pole pulled away in the last mile to record 2hr 27min 43sec. Machado, from Portugal, followed ten seconds later. Riva Lemetinen, of Finland, was third in exactly 2hr 28min. She would not have been running but for the earthquake in Kobe, which struck when she was in her hotel room on the fourteenth floor. The Osaka Marathon, her reason for being in Kobe, was cancelled and she came to London. "I thought my life was over," Lemetinen said.

She said she would dedicate her run to the people of Kobe. Would she be sending them some of her \$27,500 London earnings? Her manager stepped in to prevent a hasty decision. "We are thinking about that," he said.



A delighted Cerón becomes the first man to win the event twice

TOP THREE

Men
1. D Cerón (Mex), 2:08:30
2. S Monaghan (Aus), 2:08:53
3. A Pinto (Por), 2:08:48

Women
1. M Sobanska (Pol), 2:27:43
2. M Machado (Por), 2:27:53
3. R Lemetinen (Fin), 2:28:00

pay-day for one athlete competing in Great Britain.

He is a businessman first, an enthusiast second. None of Cerón's family came to support, while Monaghan, a consultant for the Victoria State Education Department, had with him his wife, daughter and parents. "Why would you take your wife to work?" Cerón had asked on hearing that the Monaghans had arrived en masse. "I have a job at home and this is just a hobby," Monaghan responded.

This was the second successive London Marathon in which domestic runners have failed to make the top three. Paul Evans and Liz McColgan, both fifth, were

Love fighting hard for his place at Augusta

FROM JOHN HOPKINS GOLF CORRESPONDENT IN NEW ORLEANS

FOR Davis Love III, the final round of the Preempt-McMullan Classic golf tournament at English Turn represented the last chance to get into the Masters. For José María Olazábal it was an opportunity lost for some much-needed competitive practice.

Love, whose record in major championships is the worst of any leading American player, was making a brave attempt to do what he had to do: namely win the tournament. Knowing there would be no chances if he came second or worse, Love sank a ten-foot putt on the 18th green in near darkness on Saturday night for a 66 to give him a one-stroke lead after 54 holes.

Love was 13 under par after rounds of 68, 69 and 66. It was a courageous display because he had been under pressure from the moment he arrived in Louisiana. "Every time I hit a good shot the fans shout 'we're off to Augusta'," Love said. "I don't know where they're going to get the tickets."

Ian Woosnam, the champion here in 1991, was six under par and Sandy Lyle, inching his way towards some semblance of form, was four under.

Olazábal, however, had cooked his own goose, missing the cut by one stroke, leaving him free to head for Georgia and furious practice for his defence of the title he won by two strokes last year. There was another item on Olazábal's agenda, too — organising the menu for Tuesday night. He wanted hake, which is a Basque favourite, but had to settle for sole.

United States unless stated

200: D Love 68, 69, 68, 66, 281; S Jones 69, 68, 205; D Peoples 70, 68, 68, 202; C Perry (Aus) 71, 69, 68; M Bradley 68, 71, 67; M Wade 70, 68, 68, 207; L Clements 69, 68, 70, 68; G Ross 70, 71, 67; B Bryant 69, 74, 68; B Mayfair 67, 71, 67; B Mayfair 67, 71, 67; J Partridge (Swe) 71, 67, 70; M Heinen 68, 71, 71, 202; F Couples 73, 68, 68; W Austin 69, 71, 70; S Adams 69, 68, 71; S Cline 68, 70, 71; S Simpson 68, 70, 71, 205; K Updegraff 68, 71; J Woosnam (GB) 70, 68, 71; F Funk 70, 72, 77.

day night. He wanted hake, which is a Basque favourite, but had to settle for sole.

Olazábal's form is below its best, which is not surprising as he has played only 14 rounds since he had an operation on the big toe of his right foot at the end of January. He desperately needed to play four rounds at English Turn to acquire more match practice and to be able to put in some

time on the driving range. Instead he was left ruing his lack of golf and cooling his heels as heavy rain interrupted the tournament.

"What a disastrous week this has been," he said on Friday night. It was a complete contrast to last year when he was pipped by Ben Crenshaw and travelled to the Masters with his nerve strong and his confidence high.

Perhaps the worst aspect of Olazábal's game at present is his putting, which being a combination of touch and nerve is often the department of a player's game that suffers from a lay-off. In his second round, a 71, Olazábal had six chances from inside ten feet and missed them all.

By tradition, the greens at Augusta are a fierce examination of nerve and skill. Only those at Oakmont, where the US Open was held last summer and where Olazábal also missed the cut, are comparable.

Johnny Miller calls the Masters the Augusta spring putting championship. For Olazábal to go there short of practice and without complete confidence in his putting stroke is akin to tying a ball and chain around his foot.

His lack of preparation this

year is reminiscent of when Nick Faldo was defending his second title in 1991. That year Faldo determined to start sparingly, to be at his peak for the Ryder Cup in the late summer and all those autumn jamboree events that offer such large prize-money.

The policy backfired spectacularly when he missed the cut in one US event prior to the Masters and all four rounds at another event in Houston, which were washed out. Thus Faldo arrived at Augusta having played fewer than ten competitive rounds since the start of the year.

It says something for his determination that he managed to overcome this rustiness to finish in a tie for twelfth, four strokes behind Woosnam. Olazábal will be doing well if he can match Faldo in this respect.

Teddington pioneers win on goal difference

By SYDNEY FRISKIN

TEDDINGTON, pioneers of the modern game of hockey, won the national league championship yesterday on goal difference after finishing with the same number of points as Reading. Cannock fell back in the race with a 2-2 draw against Havant on Saturday.

Teddington's 4-2 win over East Grinstead at Saint Hill yesterday was followed by a half-hour wait before it was learnt that Reading, who had beaten Stourport 5-1, had not done enough. Neil Campbell, Teddington's manager, described it as the longest half-hour of his life.

Philip McGuire put Teddington ahead by converting a penalty stroke in the fifth minute. Three minutes later, Head levelled for East Grinstead, starting a run on the right and finishing it with a well-taken goal after combining with Gibson.

Teddington struck again in the fourteenth minute with a goal by Way from their third short corner and 11 minutes later Billson took advantage of a muddle in East Grinstead's defence to score the third goal. McGuire added the fourth from a short corner a minute before the interval. East Grinstead retaliated in the 57th minute with a short corner which led to a penalty stroke and Barnes made no mistake from the spot.

Cannock finished in third position with a 9-0 victory over Firebrands who, along with Slough, will be relegated to the second division next season. In Saturday's match against Havant, Cannock led twice and failed to capitalise on 13 short corners. Goals by Kalbir Takher and Mayer for Cannock were answered by Bartlett and Paulson.

Reading had a scare at home on Saturday when Morrison scored for Old Loughboroughians. The scores were level at 2-2 at half-time but Reading went on to win 6-4. And Barford Tigers gained promotion to the first division after a 1-1 draw with Doncaster.

Results and tables, page 28

Davis pulls through marathon struggle

By PETER YATES

STEVE DAVIS needed longer to reach the second round of the Castella British Open snooker tournament in Plymouth yesterday than many runners took to complete the London marathon course. The former world champion required three hours 39 minutes to beat Paul Davies 5-4.

Five months ago Davis easily overcame the same opponent 9-2 at the corresponding stage of the United Kingdom championship and when he established a 3-1 lead in the rematch, another comfortable victory looked the most likely outcome.

However, Davies, the world No 55, from Cardiff snatched the fifth frame on the black with a 49 clearance before drawing level at 3-3 with a 67 break in the next after Davis, 33-0 ahead, had surprisingly missed a pink.

The following two frames were shared but Davis who is pushing Stephen Hendry hard for the provisional world No 1 spot, held his composure admirably in the deciding frame to construct a 73 break on his first scoring visit.

"With the world championship just around the corner I suppose it wouldn't have been a bad tournament in which to lose in the first round but now I'm through I badly want to win the thing," Davis, who is attempting to capture the British Open title for the fourth time, said.

Alan McManus, who has suffered disappointing results since triumphing in the Dubai Classic in October, showed a welcome return to form in recording a 5-2 victory over Anthony Hamilton, of Nottingham.

Hamilton ended well in the early stages. He compiled breaks of 127 and 99 in sharing the first four frames but McManus, who had won the third on the black after requiring a snooker with two reds remaining, conceded only 15 points in the closing three.

Hendry eased through to the last 32 with a routine 5-1 victory over Michael Judge, while John Higgins won 5-1 against Terry Griffiths.

Sharks hold nerve to take league title

By NICHOLAS HARLING

AMID almost unbearable tension, the Sheffield Sharks captured the Budweiser League basketball title last night, to go with the National Cup that they won last month.

Requiring a victory at Doncaster Panthers to finish top, the Sharks achieved just that, succeeding 81-70 in The Dome to consign the defending champions, Thames Valley Tigers, to the run-up spot.

The Tigers had taken the race to the last day by overwhelming Derby Bucks 111-86 on Saturday, but that was to prove no more than a gallant effort from the holders.

Jim Brandon's squad made certain of that but it was not before they had tested the nerves of supporters, many of them not too ashamed to be sporting the colours of Sheffield Wednesday after the previous day's humiliation, that the double was completed in the club's first season.

The Sharks, who had led the League for most of the season, had opened brightly enough with two three-pointers from Chris Finch in the opening 47 seconds but from 18-11 down, the Panthers hit the visitors with a remarkable 16-2 burst that transformed the game.

Battling with an intensity that suggested absolutely no neighbourly favours, the Panthers, inspired by Anthony Joseph, led 30-25 only to fall behind again 38-32 by half time.

Although they were without their injured off-in American, Chris Pitt, the Panthers collected the first seven points of the second half to produce the next twist, but they continued to surrender baskets and rebounds to the magnificent Roger Huggins.

It was, however, when Greg Modzelewski put the Panthers ahead for the fourth time with a three-pointer just over three minutes from time that Sheffield's cause looked a lost one.

As the fouls mounted up, the Sharks kept cool, no one more so than Garnet Gayle, whose four successive free throws inspired the Sharks to collect 17 out of 22 altogether in their last quarter.

Finch was fouled out with 72 seconds left but with Modzelewski narrowly missing another three-pointer, it hardly mattered.

Brandon had shuffled his squad successfully and the celebrations of a remarkable first season could begin in earnest.

Mighty Wigan await Hanley's heroes in Wembley showdown

Leeds ready for the supreme test

Leeds... 39 Featherstone Rovers... 22

By CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

ON REACHING Wembley, wheels have a habit of detaching themselves from wagons, while Wigan roll relentlessly on. They came off Leeds spectacularly last year, and a feature this week to despatch Oldham and Warrington would raise similar questions.

Forewarned is forearmed for a first repeat Rugby League Silk Cup Challenge Cup final on April 23, and Leeds certainly have a hard-earned, more determined feel about them this time. Maintenance of form is the elixir perfected by Wigan, which Leeds must also find.

Either side of 50 minutes on Saturday in which Leeds were overwhelmingly too good for a Featherstone defence reduced to pulp by undiluted pace was a wobbly start and unsatisfactory finish that Wigan would doubtless prey upon. Concession of 12 points in the last ten minutes was not the first occasion this season that Leeds minds have wandered.

Alan Tait, scorer of one of seven tries, ascribed bad preparation for last year's final to the pulled hamstring that left Ellery Hanley palpably unfit, in which case the cotton wool for the captain-coach should come out now. Hanley's importance to the side, not least two more tries on Saturday for a record-equalling 40 for a forward in a season, cannot be overemphasised.

In acknowledging the lack of strength in depth compared

Wigan restore order

SPECTATORS are likely to vote with their feet in the brave new world of the premier league next season if there are more of the hammerings that characterised yesterday's championship programme (Christopher Irvine writes). Wigan, Bradford Northern and St Helens together amassed 34 tries as respective opponents collapsed.

A weakened Halifax paid for their temerity in upsetting the champions five days before by enduring a 62-6 beating at Wigan. Frano Bodica's try and six goals took him past 300 points for the season. Before retiring at half-time, Paul Newlove touched down

three times for Bradford in a 74-18 defeat of bottom-placed Doncaster, whose miserable fate it is to visit Wigan on Wednesday. St Helens, meanwhile, dismantled Wakefield 56-14.

With Leeds in second place, now five points adrift, Wigan's sixth successive Stones Bitter Championship title is a formality that might be settled next Sunday night, when Bradford are the visitors, or even before then, should Leeds slip up against Oldham tomorrow and at Warrington on Friday.

Daryl Powell, 26, the Great Britain utility back, is expected to leave Sheffield today to join Keighley.

Lowes short-circuited Featherstone with a phenomenal tackling stunt, and Mercer's linking wide running complemented a back-line that is Wigan's match.

To Featherstone's credit, they never relented, but the highest score by a losing semi-finalist was scant consolation. Leeds were initially sucked in up the middle as Butt and Calland took their chances well, after a length-of-the-field interception of Aston's pass by Schofield, but in going out wide and fast, Leeds cut loose.

Featherstone blinked and a Wembley return after 12 years was gone as Fallon, twice, and Hanley profited from the errors and indiscipline that crept in before half-time. Immediately afterwards, Iro was over but let go of the ball; in a tight contest, the sort of mistake to lose a trophy.

SCORERS: Leeds: Tait, Fallon (2); Hanley (2); Schofield; Hoggard; Tait; Goss; Hoggard (3). Doncaster: Goss; Hoggard; Tait; Goss; Hoggard (3). Featherstone: Tait; Butt; Calland; Dwell; Southwood; Goss; Fallon (3). LEEDS: A Tait, J Fallon, K Iro, C Jones, F Cummins, G Schofield, G Hoggard, H Hoggard (sub: N Harrison 28min), J Lowes, E Farnall, G Mercer, R Eyles (sub: M Vassilakopoulos, 37), E Hanley. FEATHERSTONE: Goss; C Gibson; I Butt, G Hoggard (sub: M Hoggard, 37), M Calland, D Hughes, B Tait, M Aston, S Hoggard, G Southwood, L Casey (sub: J Newlove, 49), D Dwell, G Hoggard, N Rodwell. Referee: D Campbell.

Oxford forced to endure pain without gain

David Miller reports
on a Boat Race that
went according to
plan for Cambridge

SPORT is full of people who are afraid of giving everything, body and soul, in an effort to win because they know that mentally they would not be able to handle the added pain if they still fail. Oxford gave a memorable performance in the Boat Race, heroic to those who knew the realities of pre-race form, only to find themselves crushed physically and broken beyond words emotionally.

In this most cruel of team sports, which gut-wrenchingly grinds along a course more than three times longer than the conventional international distance of two kilometres, Cambridge made the torture worse than had the winning margin been the same dismissive 14 lengths inflicted by Goldie on Isis in the second-



Cambridge, whose victory was their third in succession, increase the pressure as Oxford start to wilt after their combative start in the Boat Race. Photograph: Marc Aspland

It had indeed been a barrier. Cambridge had known for many months that they were equipped, in technique and experience, to win handsomely. Yet, as the day approached, and Topolski and Penny Chuter assiduously refined Oxford's random assembly of

internationalists, as momentary doubts overtook Cambridge during trial runs, and the hugely powerful world championship oarsman, Brownlee, from New Zealand, was struck down with illness on Thursday, and as the Oxford publicity machine

moved into top gear, detecting magical improvement under the master coach, Cambridge at all costs had to keep their nerve.

Phelps, with his coaches, Robin Williams and Harry Mahon, ensured this was so. They were not to be intimidated.

As Marko Banovic, the Olympian from Zagreb who revelled in representing Croatia in front of a global audience of 400 million, said afterwards: "Matching them over the first two minutes and delaying our effort to Hammersmith was part of our

plan. We were calm and patient."

Phelps was no more emphatic afterwards than he had been, without overstatement, beforehand. "We knew they had four or five last minutes in them," he said, "and that they could move the boat quickly,

but for a limited period. We were not surprised by their challenge at Harrods [just after the mile post] and had expected them possibly even to lead. We were doing what we do best, maintaining our rhythm economically, and we waited for them to crack.

When Russell [Staford, the cox], called for it approaching Hammersmith, we knew we had them."

Topolski would claim afterwards that it might have been different had Oxford won the Surrey station for the start, to protect them from the headwind that hit them the worse of the two boats on the outside at Hammersmith. Yet with the inside Middlesex bend instead of Surrey, surely Cambridge might have had clear water by Fulham so as to cross stations. All that must be hypothesis.

The truth is that Oxford were, all too predictably, outclassed. "We had a great first seven minutes, and I'm proud of them and very sad for them," Topolski reflected. "Cambridge are on a roll that has taken years to build up. They are slick, strong and attract good oarsmen to the university. Counter-attacking them will take time." He has another two years of his new contract to try to do so, to avoid a third defeat in his long association with the Dark Blue boat.

There was a poignant moment after it was all over. Jeremiah McLanahan, the Oxford president, who had rowed manfully at five, and who for six months and for 45 hours a week had been combining with Topolski to try to turn water into wine, had for an hour been shaking with the pain of failure. He had rowed the race with his baseball cap, as usual, worn back to front, but now the peak had been turned to hide the eyes that were fighting back the tears of a sensitive leader who feels guilty towards those he led.

Quietly, Topolski spoke reassuringly to him, placing a friendly hand against McLanahan's chest and telling him, with an older man's understanding smile, that there was not shame but achievement in what had just taken place. Yet so intense are the emotions of this two-horse race that Topolski had perhaps forgotten the anger he had felt when losing in 1967.

For hours, days, or even months, a defeated oarsman's life can seem overpoweringly empty, frustrated and wasted. There is no more cruel stage on which to fall.

Light Blue victors fly flag for British rowing

By Mike Rosewell
ROWING CORRESPONDENT

TWO Union Jacks on Harrods' depostory, flown on Boat Race day to help the pundits at Putney assess the wind and water conditions further up the course, heralded a British victory in the 14th boat race, British in so far that Cambridge, winners by four lengths, had five native Britons on board against Oxford's two (Mike Rosewell writes).

Oxford's chances were not improved when Cambridge won the

toss and chose the Surrey station hoped for by the Oxford coaches. Penny Chuter and Dan Topolski. Oxford's race plan was adjusted accordingly.

"Hard to the mile, be no more than half a length down at Hammersmith and then race again from Chiswick Steps," Cambridge's orders from Robin Williams and Harry Mahon were: "Be patient, focus on your own rhythm. Don't let it become a slugging match because it will suit Oxford's game plan."

Patience prevailed. Oxford led

briefly off the start but Cambridge hit a better early rhythm, overcoming Oxford pressure both from the rowers and their coxswain, Abbie Chapman, who tried, and succeeded in, pushing Cambridge over approaching the Fulham bend despite the umpire's warnings and a near clash of oars.

Russell Stafford, the Cambridge cox, said: "I was amazed how far to Surrey we were when the umpire let her do it." But his crew had given him a vital lead of two-thirds of a length by Craven Cottage and he

moved marginally to give Oxford's stroke side the upset of his bow-side puddles. Oxford fought, though, and Cambridge, at the same rate of 35 but looking steadier, were only one second up at the mile.

They gained little more until the Union Jacks of Harrods and Oxford's hoped-for maximum deficit of half a length at Hammersmith began to look possible. But Stafford's line to the bridge and a push from his men produced a quick one-length extra advantage and Oxford's contact, and cause, were lost.

In the post race mêlée, Williams, Cambridge's chief coach and quiet architect of success, was less evident than most. Williams has one of Saturday's crew back next year, the stroke, Miles Barnett, and four possibles from Goldie, who overpowered their Oxford counterparts.

Topolski said after the race: "You cannot expect our new system to bear fruit in just a year." He has four of his crew returning to lay the base for next year.

View from the towpath, page 30

THE TIMES GOLF MASTERS CHALLENGE

Match the masters to win £25,000

Plus luxury US golf holidays and sets of Wilson clubs to be won

£25,000 LEADERBOARD

Six under par

P. Bett, Bromley

Five under par

B. Miller, Nottingham

J. Lee, Gloucestershire

Four under par

A. Anderson, Glamorgan; J. Lee, Gloucestershire

N. C. Hooley, Carlisle; B. How, Suffolk; W. Wood, Surrey; J. G. Todd, Birmingham; J. Condon, Bury St Edmunds; J. O'Neill, Harpenden; T. S. Jones, Leicester

Three under par

A. Adams, York; G. Eyles, Camberley; R. J. Quiley, Wolverhampton; M. J. Harrop, Chipping Norton; T. Hobbs, London; M. Scott, Wiltshire; N. Dobson, Leeds; T. Doherty, Leicester; A. Hall, Northampton; K. Ross, Eastbourne; A. Collett, Burgess Hill; W. Grayson, Fenny Compton; M. Wagon, Banstead; R. Mearns, Witney

Two under par

R. Land, Leeds; A. Stoddart, Southampton; R. Stoddart, Essex; M. O'Neil, Poole

One under par

A. Tallentire, Wiltshire

SECOND WEEK'S WINNERS

Mike Price's actual yardage on the 18th hole at Turnberry in the 1994 Open was 263yds, No 7 iron 165yds, putter 10yds, putter 1yd.

John Daly's actual yardage on the 18th hole in the 1994 Open was driver 330yds, Sand Wedge 131yds, Putter 1yd.

Last week's holiday in Florida was won by Will Grayson of Fenny Compton. The prize of Wilson clubs was won by J. Cox of Farnham, Dorset. The Times prize was won by John Graham of Gloucestershire.



TODAY'S hole in our Golf Masters Challenge features the 13th at Hilton Head Island, South Carolina, played by Hale Irwin in the 1994 Heritage Classic. This is a 378yd par four and Irwin completed it in three shots. Taking a moderate north north easterly wind into account, he teed off with a No 3 wood and reached the green with a No 8 iron, then used a putter for his third shot.



SKY SPORTS adds the Ryder Cup in September to its golf coverage

Today we publish the sixth hole in the Golf Masters Challenge accompanied by details of how many shots a leading professional golfer, Hale Irwin, took to play the hole, the clubs he used and the prevailing weather conditions. The seventh hole appears in *The Sunday Times* next week.

To play today's hole study the Strokesaver map taking into account the yardage guides which give both distances from the tee and yardages to the green. They also show obstacles that might prevent the golfer from hitting the ball in a straight line, such as water and trees.

Using your skill and judgment estimate how far each shot travelled, in yards. Then pick up the 'phone, dial the appropriate Hotline, follow the instructions and key in your answers. You will need a touchtone telephone and calls will last for about four minutes; calls cost 39p per minute cheap rate and 49p per minute at other times.

Try to match the yardage of each shot taken by the featured golf professional and you could win any of three different prizes:

The £25,000 accumulator prize can only be won by readers who play all 18 holes during the nine weeks of *The Times/The Sunday Times* Golf Masters Challenge. If you have already played the first five holes ring 0891 66 55 06 and quote your Pin number to play the sixth hole. This number automatically enters accumulator players for the daily prize and the second stage of the third weekly prize. A weekly leaderboard will chart the progress of the top 30 entrants.

The weekly prize. This is for all readers who play today's hole and the hole published in *The Sunday Times* yesterday. The person who has the best score over the two holes will win a luxury golf holiday worth up to £7,000. To play for the weekly and daily prizes ring 0891 66 55 06. Accumulator players do not need to call this number.

The daily prize. The reader with the lowest score on a single hole will win a full set of Wilson golf clubs including a golf bag and Ultra balls. To play for the daily prize, ring 0891 66 55 07.

The success of your play is calculated by a simple scoring system. You will be penalised one point for every yard your estimate varies from the exact yardage taken by the golfing professional for his shot. The total variance in points is then transferred into a golfing equivalent; 0-4 points = 2 under par, 5-8 points = 1 under par, 9-15 points = par, 16-19 points = 1 over par, 20-25 points = 2 over par, 26 points and over = three over par. This scoring mechanism is a final modification and is slightly more sensitive than the original published on March 19.

Golf Masters Challenge CUMULATIVE HOTLINE:

0891 55 59 06

WEEKLY HOTLINE:

0891 66 55 06

DAILY HOTLINE:

0891 66 55 07

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Five nights for two in Arizona

FOR readers who play today's hole and the hole published in *The Sunday Times* yesterday there is the chance of winning a holiday worth £7,000. This week's destination is The Boulders Resort and Golf Club, Arizona, which nestles in the picturesque Sonoran Desert foothills and boasts two championship golf courses designed by Jay Morrish.

The company Great Golf Resorts of the World, which specialises in luxury golfing holiday resorts, has combined with American Airlines and Avis car rental to provide a dream holiday for two people as a weekly prize for the Golf Challenge.

Each weekly winner and a companion will fly business

class with American Airlines. They will stay for five nights in luxury accommodation, with breakfast provided.

Winners will have three rounds of golf on a championship course.

American Airlines is the largest US transatlantic carrier, with non-stop flights from Heathrow, Gatwick, Manchester, Glasgow (from April 3) and Birmingham (from May 26) to eight American gateway cities, with connections to nearly 300 destinations in the US, the Caribbean, Latin America and Japan.

For further information on resorts featured, telephone American Airlines Holidays (ATOL 2706) on 01703 465885.

American Airlines

Win a set of clubs at every hole

THE reader who gets the best score on each of the 18 holes in the Golf Masters Challenge will win a set of superb Wilson golf clubs worth £1,400 — including a golf bag and the latest technology Ultra 500 golf balls to get you rolling. The set is made up of Wilson Staff Midsize irons and Killer Whale Midsize woods. The irons are designed with perimeter weighting and a generous sweet spot to give maximum accuracy and forgiveness. The Killer Whale woods are reputed to be the longest-hitting clubs on the US PGA tour.

Wilson

The Right Equipment Makes The Difference



Tom Tate is the featured player in *The Sunday Times* next week. Match him on the 18th hole in the 1994 Dunhill Cup.

strokesaver
GOLF'S No.1 DISTANCE GUIDE

Knee injury forces Townsend to miss World Cup

BY MARE SCHISTER

ong last

By DAVID HANDS
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

Kickin'

Harlequins
Bath

BY BRYAN STILES

Greenwood, the Wasps second-row forward, sets up an attack in the Pilkington Cup semi-final against Leicester at Welford Road. Photograph: David Rogers

SCORERS: Leicester: Try: R Underwood, D Edwards, S Potter, R Underwood, J Hems. Conversion: Liley. Penalty goals: Liley (5).
Wasps: Try: D Hopley. Conversion: Andrew. Penalty goals: Andrew (3). Dropped goals: Andrew (3).

LEICESTER: J Liley, T Underwood, D Edwards, S Potter, R Underwood, J Hems, A Kandoni, G Rowntree, R Cockin, D Garforth, J Wells, M Johnson, M Poole, N Back, C Turbutt.

WASPS: J Uffon, S Roiser, D Hopley, C Childs, P Hopley, R Andrew, S Bates, N Piggewell, K Dunn, I Dunston, L Delligott, M Greenwood, N Haddy, M White, D Ryan.

Referee: S Lander (Liverpool).

By **BRYAN STILES**

(3) **Dropped goat:** Carl.
HARLEQUINS: J Staples, P Mensah, W Canting, W Greenwood, S Bromley, D Pears, R Kitchin, J Leonard, B Moore, A Mullins, M Watson, A Snow, P Thresher, R Jenkins, C Sheasby. Staples replaced by P Chelver (73min).
BATH: J Colard, A Swift, P de Giorville, J Guscott, J Singhthorne, M Catt, I Sanders, K Yates, G Adams, J Malet, J Hall, M Haeg, N Redman, S Ojomo, B Clarke. Catt replaced by R Sutland (63).
Referee: B Campbell (Yorkshire)



By BARRY TROWBRIDGE

"We congratulate Pomy-
pidd on what they have
achieved so far this season,"
he said, "but we are sure they
will appreciate us still wanting
to influence the outcome of the
league, even though we cannot
retain the title. It's nothing
personal." And influence it
Swansea did.



Jones: perfect partner

SWANSEA: A Clement, A Hames, D Weatherly, R Babbler, Simon Davies, L Griffiths, R Jones, C Loader, G Jenkins, K Colclough, A Reynolds, P Arnold, A Moore, R Appleby, Stuart Davies. Griffiths replaced by A Williams (70min); D Moore temporary replacement for Reynolds.

PONTYPRID: G Corneish, D Manley, J Lewis, S Lewis, O Roberts, N Jenkins, Paul John, N Bezzant, Phil John, A Mielnicie, M Spiller, G Prosser, M Rowley, R Collins, D McIntosh. Griffiths replaced by M Lloyd (63).

Coaches: W D Evans (Clifton)

By ALISON KERVIN

In truth, it was a thumping defeat, engineered for England by a pack of Ben Clarke clones which sucked in and

Sole, though, knows that his callow youngsters need to spend long hours in the gymnasium to be able to compete effectively with the likes of England, who used

Gavin Dalgleish at stand-off half, in which Scotland attacked with vigour, the England sleeping giants awoke. From their first serious attack, Graeme Smith ran in a try on the left to cancel a penalty goal by Scott Tomlinson.

league, did their utmost to stem the tide, the England power game wore them down. The sheer effort of containment resulted in the Scots using five replacements, three because of injuries to centres. The fresh blood helped the Scots to rally briefly. Danny Bull scored two tries in quick

denied him a third.

SCORERS: Scotland Under-19: Trips; Bull (2). Penalty goal: Tomlinson. England Under-19: Trips; Smith, Ashforth, Zettman, Winters, Waters. Conversions: Belgian (2). Penalty goal: Belgian.

SCOTLAND UNDER-19: S Tomlinson. A

By MARK SMISTER

his callow youngsters need to spend long hours in the gymnasium to be able to compete effectively with the likes of England, who used

In the second half, four more tries were added as the

The fresh blood helped the Scots to rally briefly. Danny Bull scored two tries in quick

ENGLAND UNDER-19: R Ashforth; G Trueman, F Walters, A Blyth, G Smith; P Bateman, P Harvey, P Vickery, P Greening, M Fitzgerald, E Pearce, D Zaitzman, C Murphy, N Spence, R Winters.
Referee: D Bryant (Essex).



Government raises risks on sports spread betting

1	2205	GREY SUEDE 3A (1.5) 11.7-11.9	Alex Graham
2	2206	DAYANA 3A (1.5) 11.7-11.9	G. Panton (17)
3	2207	YANZHOA 3A (1.5) 11.7-11.9	R. Hughes
4	2208	HAIRBERT 3A (1.5) 11.7-11.9	R. Hughes
5	2209	CICEROE 3A (1.5) 11.7-11.9	R. Cacciatore (1)
6	2210	DANTE'S RUBIN 213 J Bethell 4-13	J. Winsten
7	2211	TITANUM HURON 14 C Brian 4-11	B. Doyle
8	2212	TOP FELLA 9 (B) 11.7-11.9	Emma O'Grady (3)
9	2213	SEBASTIAN 3A (1.5) 11.7-11.9	R. Cacciatore (1)
10	2214	DEMONSTRATOR 19 D Brian 4-11	R. Cacciatore (1)

10	J Quinlan 2	13	0005	ASMAFONA 14 S Browning 5-8-1	P Fessay (7) 12
9	J Weaver 5	14	0526	ARROGANT BOY 18 (B) D Chapman 6-8-0	N Carlisle 15
	M Farnico 6	15	00-1	WHYTELOCK QUEST 14 (C.G.) N Berry 7-7-12	A Gibbons (7) 17

UNISYS
We make it happen.

race. The names and times of the other finishers will be published this week.

1 D Ceron 2:08:30
 2 S Moneghetti 2:08:33
 3 A Pinto 2:08:48
 4 X Yawa 2:10:22
 5 P Evans 2:10:31
 6 J Pinheiro 2:10:35
 7 W Mtofo 2:11:35
 8 L Di Lello 2:11:36
 9 J Mabidze 2:11:39
 10 Z Nyambaso 2:11:56
 11 M Hudspeth 2:11:58
 12 P Whitehead 2:12:23
 13 E Martin 2:12:44
 14 B Le Stum 2:13:40
 15 F Roncero 2:14:36
 16 C Moore 2:15:02
 17 D Julia Navori 2:17:09
 18 M Perak 2:17:18
 19 M Nadour 2:17:33
 20 A Szalkai 2:17:42
 21 A Gisamba 2:18:29
 22 H Sebataui 2:18:51
 23 C Buckley 2:19:05
 24 L Soares 2:19:38
 25 J September 2:19:40
 26 A Jeloukine 2:19:42
 27 S Cohen 2:20:17
 28 A Mekonnen 2:20:18
 29 S P Collen 2:20:50
 30 J Ikangaa 2:21:03
 31 A Graham 2:21:05
 32 O Machlem 2:21:27
 33 J Harrison 2:21:30
 34 P Haynes 2:21:59
 35 N Rose 2:22:32
 36 I Ibrahim 2:22:35
 37 M McGrath 2:22:39
 38 D Walmsley 2:22:45
 39 P Ballantyne 2:22:48
 40 D Cavers 2:23:52
 41 M Romer 2:23:54
 42 J Tobin 2:24:01
 43 J Bishop 2:24:00
 44 G Bishop 2:24:04
 45 P Plancke 2:24:05
 46 P Pleasant 2:24:07
 47 D Mansbridge 2:24:12
 48 A Barden 2:24:21
 49 T Wilson 2:24:28
 50 A Guilder 2:24:41

D Colon 2:08-26; Monesherri
1:08-53; Pinto 2:08-49; P Jawa
2:10-22; P Evans 2:10-31; J
1:08-53; P Jawa 2:10-22;
D Lello 2:11-36; J Magbitie
2:11-36; P Jawa 2:11-36;
Hudson 2:15-38; P Whitehead
2:12-23; E Martin 2:12-24; B Le
2:12-23; P Jawa 2:12-23;
C Moore 2:15-32; D Julia Navarro
2:15-32; P Jawa 2:15-32;
Nadour 2:17-33; A Szalkai 2:17-42;
A Glesmbia 2:18-49; H Sobouai
2:18-49; P Jawa 2:18-49;
Soares 2:19-38; September
2:19-38; P Jawa 2:19-38;
Cohen 2:20-18; A Mekonnen
2:20-18; S Thakama 2:20-18;
S Barot 2:20-18;
Graham 2:21-05; M Machlin
2:21-05; P Jawa 2:21-05;
Haynes 2:21-59; N Rose 2:22-3; I
Ibrahim 2:22-3; P Jawa 2:22-3;
D Walmsley 2:22-45; P
Balanany 2:22-48; C Covers
2:22-48; P Jawa 2:22-48;
2:22-57; P Jawa 2:22-57;
G Bishop 2:23-04; P Jawa 2:23-04;
Mansbridge 2:24-12; A Barden
2:24-12; P Jawa 2:24-12;
Guilider 2:24-41

2:36-46; T Phlo 2:36-49;
Mabroha 2:36-49; Rogers
2:36-49; P Flint 2:36-53; S Thrall
2:36-53; P Jawa 2:36-53;
Brown 2:36-54; M Packer 2:37-04;
P Jawa 2:37-04;
2:37-07; D Darby 2:37-09;
Swanson 2:38-07; D Clark
2:38-07; P Jawa 2:38-07;
Collins 2:37-10; M Farrell 2:37-12;
P Jawa 2:37-12;
2:37-16; K McMillurray 2:37-17; F
Dack 2:37-18; C Davis 2:37-18;
P Jawa 2:37-18;
N Berill 2:37-23; J Dingwall
2:37-23; P Jawa 2:37-23;
Johnson 2:37-44; Russell
2:37-46; M Marrow 2:37-46;
2:37-46; P Jawa 2:37-46;
2:37-48; J Person 2:37-49;
S 2:37-49; P Jawa 2:37-49;
2:37-51; T Uronen 2:37-51;
P Jawa 2:37-51;
N Nicholson 2:38-07; Bullen
2:38-15; P Philpote 2:38-17; W

251 R Kiddie 2:38-21; N Waikin
2:38-26; M Walton 2:38-26;
C Thompson 2:38-26; P Orme
2:38-26; M Milne 2:38-26;
2:38-32; C Corrie 2:38-34; A
2:38-34; P Jawa 2:38-34;

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151 A Botomyne 2:33-53; A
Haakenvet 2:33-50; A Simpson
2:33-57; F Rogers 2:33-57; M
Cowan 2:33-58; A
2:33-58; P Redmond 2:33-59; A
Leborick 2:34-00; P Gray 2:34-01;
Maitman 2:34-02; McBride
2:34-02; L Von Der Seeln 2:34-24;
G Williams 2:34-26;
2:34-32; P Kinsella 2:34-34;
R Taylor 2:34-34; R Dewis 2:34-38;
Johnston 2:34-39;
2:34-40; H Hoegen 2:34-44;
Wester 2:34-45; P Gwilym
P Bates 2:34-49; I Russell 2:34-50;
Moore 2:34-50;
34-59; P Edmondson 2:35-02;
A Rich 2:35-04; R De Vido 2:35-05;
H Jones 2:35-07; R Yonke
2:35-32; D Cooper 2:35-35;
D Hamling 2:35-35; M Harrison
2:35-38;
Thompson 2:35-39; S Pereira
2:35-40;
Bennett 2:35-41; N Russell
2:36-01; J Martin 2:36-01;
2:36-02; T Veerman
2:36-28; S Spertin 2:36-29;
N Thompson 2:36-30;
2:36-30; C McLaughlin 2:36-30; N

Cunningham 2:41-01;
2:41-02; G Heslop 2:41-03;
R Johnston 2:41-06; A Stenning
2:41-07; B Heston 2:41-08;
Delahunty 2:42-09; M Neale
2:42-10; C Manclark 2:42-11; T

Knightley 2:42-14; R Sewell
2:42-15; D Donnelly 2:42-19; W
2:42-19; P 2:42-19;
2:42-28; C Warner
2:42-33; S Baynes 2:42-33;
Whifford 2:42-33;
2:42-37; M Wintering 2:42-37;
2:42-37; S 2:42-37;
2:42-41; A Marsh 2:42-42; G Slighi
2:42-42;

Bateson 2:36:30; R Jordan 2:36:31
2:42:45; D Edwards 2:42:45; G
Stewart 2:42:46; J Greeves 2:42:52;
N Scruton 2:42:53; J Mason
2:42:55; I Kelly 2:43:02; G Denny
2:43:03; M Willis 2:43:04; K Corpes
2:43:05; G Zupan 2:43:07; M
Walker 2:43:08; J Cosgrove
2:43:10; J Hill 2:43:11

A black and white photograph of three female runners competing in a race. They are wearing matching athletic gear: tank tops with the 'Jas's Bupa' logo and bib numbers, and shorts. The runner on the left is in the lead, followed closely by the runner in the middle, and the runner on the right is slightly behind. They are all captured in mid-stride, conveying a sense of motion and competition. The background is dark and out of focus.

Sobanska tucked behind Lemettinen (left) and Machado at the Tower of London. Photograph: Julian Herbert

Collier 24:33; D Foret 24:33; T
 Saunders 24:33; J Schlepfi
 24:33; V Tindle 24:33; S Pierce
 24:33; S Wiggins 24:33; R
 Rowlands 24:33

401 O Phillips 24:33; C Norris
 24:33; R Staffick 24:33; J
 24:33; J 24:33; J 24:33; J
 24:33; M Bunn 24:33; T Rogers
 24:33; S Spence 24:33; J
 White 24:33; J 24:33; J
 T Kockelberg 24:33; P Challou
 24:33; J 24:33; J 24:33; J
 24:33; A Rihani 24:33; A
 Cawley 24:33; J Fitzpatrick
 24:33; A Blackwell 24:33;
 S Smolders 24:33; S Garcia
 24:33; J 24:33; J 24:33; J
 Ogen 24:33; J Edwards 24:40;
 G De laes 24:40; J Weighman
 24:40; J 24:40; J 24:40; J
 Badham 24:40; A Peace 24:40;
 24:40; J 24:40; J 24:40; J
 24:40; S Franz 24:40; S Cook
 24:40; J 24:40; J 24:40; J
 24:40; J 24:40; J 24:40; J
 D Hammond 24:40; S Hild
 24:40; J 24:40; J 24:40; J
 24:40; P Chapman 24:40;
 A Payne 24:40; C Parkin 24:40;
 M Thorne 24:40; J 24:40;
 24:40; R Grosjean 24:43; C
 24:43; J 24:43; J 24:43; J
 Wiggins 24:43; M Crilo 24:43;

P Whitehead 244:35

451 K. Todd 244:36; R. Rollins
244:36; E. Ewals 244:37; W.
Gardner 244:40; S. Adams
Williams 244:42; M. Beckett
244:43; E. Davies 244:43; J. Allen
244:44; J. Daxel 244:44; A.
244:44; M. Powell 244:47; I. Gates
244:47; P. Speake 244:48;
244:50; R. Dickinson 244:52; M.
Edred 244:54; F. Cherrett 244:54;
244:54; S. Watson 244:56; S.
Ellen 244:56; G. Morgan 244:59;
245:04; H. Hughes 245:04;
245:04; R. Hedges 245:07; P.
245:09;
245:11; B. Gore 245:12;
Marquise 245:13; Heywood
245:13; J. Daxel 245:13;
Touche 245:19; M. Legarde 245:20;
C. Lough 245:22; C. Lambie
245:22; A. Jones 245:24;
R. Armstrong 245:29;
J. Ross 245:29;
Bersini 245:33; R. Shannon
245:37; D. McGuinness 245:39;
P. Carr 245:41; C. Morgan 245:41;
C. Kurus 245:43; J. Kirby 245:43;

D. Matthews 247:36; M. Leggett
247:37; R. Radcliffe 247:37;
Hydon 247:37; F. McCormick
247:39; V. McCain 247:39;
247:39; S. Street 247:39; R. Pitt
247:40; M. Stacey 247:43

601 E. Francis 247:44; D. Carr
247:44; K. Kelly 247:49; N. Grant
247:49; S. Lewis 247:50;
247:55; J. Lawson 247:55; S.
247:55; S. Street 247:55; A.
247:56; M. King 247:56;
Roadway 247:57; Crawford
247:57; J. Daxel 247:57;
248:03; J. Moorlie 248:05;
Hudson 248:06; P. Lay 248:09;
F. Carson 248:09; J. Daxel 248:09;
Wilson 248:12; G. Tucker 248:12;
S. Meredith 248:15; J. Kirby 248:15;
248:16; B. Gore 248:17; G.

501 H Steiner 2:45-43; P Chapman
2:45-43; A Holmes 2:45-44; R
Freeman 2:45-49; P Thomas
2:45-48; J Smith 2:45-47; S
Wageningen 2:45-52; G Bell
2:45-53; T Martin 2:45-53; G Croft
2:45-56; D Jones 2:45-56; L
2:45-58; A Adams 2:45-59; C Plumb
2:46-02; G Moxham 2:46-02; P
Mann 2:46-02; T Casperini 2:46-08;
P Carriz 2:46-08; K Sargeant 2:46-08;
R Ferrie-Kear 2:46-10; E Mitchell
2:46-14; J Simons 2:46-14;
D Norman 2:46-14; J Humphries
2:46-19; J Johnson 2:46-22;
J Burt 2:46-22; J Giraubeau 2:46-
24-25; G Speltman 2:46-26;
S Wainwright 2:46-26; N
Husband 2:46-28; P Humphreys
2:46-29; L Taylor 2:46-31;
W Norman 2:46-31; J Johnson
2:46-32; S Gregory 2:46-34; T
Dunn 2:46-34; J Hennessy
2:46-34; J Anderson 2:46-37; P
2:46-37; I Dwyer 2:46-39; M

Commamond 2:48-17; D Peters
2:48-18; A Mitchell 2:48-19; M
2:48-19; R Eade 2:48-20; P
Fairbrother 2:48-20; P Spiller
2:48-20; J Mullis 2:48-20;
Mude 2:48-24; J Hale 2:48-24;
Hernandez-Silva 2:48-25; D
2:48-25; J Brown 2:48-25;
R Washington 2:48-30; D
Beunregard 2:48-31; J Buick
2:48-31; J Hancock 2:48-31;
Ferguson 2:48-32; J Harbisher
2:48-32; G MacInn 2:48-32;
J Johnson 2:48-32; J Johnson
2:48-35; J Plumridge 2:48-39;
L Williams 2:48-42;

651 M Plumridge 2:48-43; R
Crook 2:48-44; A Porter 2:48-48;
Nicholls 2:48-48; G Miller 2:48-48;
2:48-48; J Johnson 2:48-48;
Jerome 2:48-55; V Johnston
2:48-58; P Hutchings 2:48-57; A Jordan
2:48-58; P Hubcock 2:48-58;
T Turner 2:49-00; D Godard
2:49-05; M Smith 2:49-05;
2:49-05; M Smith 2:49-05;
P Osborne 2:49-06; J Cooper

249-12: P. McC... 249-13: D
Buckley 249-14: D. Robertson
249-15: C. Price 249-16: A.
249-17: J. H. 249-18: J. H.
249-19: R. Shaw 249-20: S. Hooper
249-21: J. H. 249-22: J. H.
249-23: J. H. 249-24: D. Schaefer
249-25: M. Harrison 249-26: Z.
249-27: J. H. 249-28: J. H.
249-29: J. H. 249-30: R. West 249-31: C.
249-32: J. H. 249-33: C.
249-34: A. Pockock 249-35: C.
249-36: J. H. 249-37: J. Collins 249-38: J.
249-39: J. H. 249-40: J. H.
249-41: T. Hazel 249-42: F. Jackson
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249-99: J. H. 249-100: J. H.

2-50:29; Shaw 2-50:27; Purdy 2-50:27; J
 2-50:30; Sherry 2-50:28; M Thimn
 2-50:30; C Carter 2-50:30; P
 2-50:30; S 2-50:30; B 2-50:30;
 2-50:30; A McInrye 2-50:31; N
 Banks 2-50:32; R Blade 2-50:31; B
 2-50:31; G 2-50:31; L 2-50:31;
 2-50:31; B Volentine 2-50:44; J
 2-50:44; W 2-50:44; K 2-50:44;
 2-50:46; M Raqqz 2-50:48; K Casey
 2-50:50; S Bellon 2-50:51; M Lewis
 2-50:53; W 2-50:53;
 Chanerney 2-50:57; A Reid 2-50:57

751 G Hadlow 2-50:57; M Wood
 2-50:57; I Wiseman 2-50:59; I
 2-50:59; J 2-50:59; J 2-50:59;
 2-51:01; J Larsen 2-51:01; A Jones
 2-51:02; M Lee 2-51:06; N Golland
 2-51:06; J 2-51:06; J 2-51:06;
 Langlands 2-51:09; S Cardiff
 2-51:10; Money 2-51:13;
 2-51:13; M 2-51:13; J 2-51:14;
 M Griffin 2-51:15; S Astley
 2-51:16; R Aldred 2-51:16;
 2-51:16; L English 2-51:16; B
 Skerton 2-51:17; D Orrellity
 2-51:18; Grant 2-51:18;
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- Generally, the teacher is tasked to prepare this group of students for the Singapore-Cambridge 'A' and 'S' level papers and to give them exposure to extra materials. There are currently vacancies in the teaching of English (including General Paper), Theatre Studies and Drama, History and Geography.
- Applicants must possess:-
 - a good Honours degree in either English or English with a diploma in Theatre Studies and Drama, History or Geography. Preference will be given to those candidates with a Master's degree in the relevant subject;
 - suitable teaching qualifications; and
 - at least 5 years of relevant teaching experience in reputable schools or colleges.

Teaching Posts (Group II)

- The Ministry requires good grammar school English Language/Literature teachers to upgrade the standard of spoken and written English at the secondary and post-secondary levels.
- Applicants must possess:-
 - An Honours degree in English or in the Humanities with English as one of the major subjects;
 - suitable teaching qualifications; and

c) at least 5 years of relevant teaching experience. The syllabi and examinations that the students are preparing for are:-

Singapore Cambridge GCE 'A' Level:	General Paper (Subject 8003) English (Subject 9002)
Singapore Cambridge GCE 'O' Level:	English Language (Subject 1120) English Literature (Subject 2010)

Educational Psychologists

- The Ministry wishes to recruit Educational Psychologists for its development of the School Psychological Service in Singapore.
- Applicants must possess:-
 - An Honours degree in Psychology;
 - a post-graduate professional qualification in Educational Psychology;
 - suitable teaching qualifications;
 - at least 2 years of teaching experience; and
 - at least 2 years of experience as an Educational Psychologist.

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- Free air passage to Singapore on first appointment and return air passage on completion of contract;
- Home leave upon renewal of each contract;
- Interest-free settling-in loan of S\$6,000;
- A once-only commuted baggage allowance of S\$280;
- A once-only commuted board and lodging allowance for initial accommodation expenses on arrival according to marital status ranging from S\$600 to S\$1,200;

9. Interviews are scheduled to be held in London at the end of May 1995 and successful applicants are expected to take up their appointment in August 1995 or earlier.

10. Application forms can be obtained or requested from:-

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11. Applications close 14 April 1995.

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- the key factors which enable teachers to put effective teaching of literacy/numeracy into practice in the primary phase; and
- the strategies which could enable those factors to be more widely applied.

An information meeting for teams interested in tendering for either or both contracts will be held on 21 April 1995. The closing date for the submission of tenders is 10 May 1995 at 12 noon. Shortlisted bidders will be invited to make a presentation to a selection panel. The contract will run to the end of September 1996.

Further information, specifications and tender documents are available from: Scott Gaskin, Research Team, TTA, Portland House, Stepney Place, London, SW1E 5TT. Tel: 0171 925 3728 Fax: 0171 925 3790.

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The successful candidate will be an excellent administrator with a strong business and financial flair, highly developed oral and written communications skills, an understanding of the Planning Consent process and of building construction and maintenance and a proven reputation as a achiever.

Further details about this challenging appointment and the method of application may be obtained from the Clerk to the Governors, Prior Park College, BATH, Avon, BA2 5AH. Closing date for applications is 21 April 1995.

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Candidates should have strong research interests in any area of plant molecular biology. Informal enquiries may be made to Professor A. Slabas.

Professor of Ecology (Ref C032)

Candidates should preferably have experience in molecular ecology and will be expected to develop this aspect of ecology within the Department in both research and teaching. Informal enquiries may be made to Professor P. R. Evans.

Professor of Animal Cell Biology (Ref C033)

Candidates should have a strong zoological background and research interests which require molecular biological approaches. Informal enquiries may be made to Professor K. Bowler.

Informal enquiries to the above may be made in confidence on 0191 374 2421.

Further details may be obtained from the Director of Personnel, University of Durham, Old Shire Hall, Durham DH1 3HP, to whom applications (5 copies) should be submitted, including the names of three referees, by Monday 8 May 1995. (Candidates outside the British Isles may submit one copy only). Please quote the appropriate reference number. Telephone 0191 374 3140; Fax 0191 374 4747; e-mail: Ssr.Recruit@durham.ac.uk

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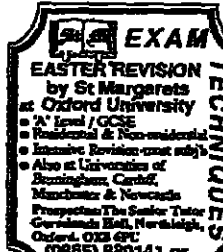
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EDUCATION



Parents and children protesting against budget cuts last week: there must be a promise of small but steady real growth in spending over a five-year period

Seven steps into the future

With politicians and professionals too absorbed in present battles, Michael Barber suggests a long-term action plan

The paucity of national debate about the future of education is startling. The teaching unions' Easter conference season begins this week, promising a fortnight of blood-and-thunder rhetoric about the funding crisis and redundancies facing schools.

Teachers will storm the rostrum at a succession of faded seaside resorts, only to echo the bluster of MPs last Wednesday when the House of Commons, with all its customary theatre, debated education spending. After six years of exhausting combat over the detail of the national curriculum and tests, few professionals or politicians have the energy to lift their heads and begin to think strategically about the future.

Yet away from the spotlight, a number of themes are emerging from figures such as Sir Geoffrey Holland, former permanent secretary at the Department for Education, and Sir John Cassels, director of the National Commission on Education. This is my attempt to formulate a plan of action.

Step one: reconstruct the teaching profession.

AT PRESENT the governance of education and the profession is divided among four quangos (Teacher Training Agency, School Curriculum and Assessment Authority, Office for Standards in Education and the School Teachers' Review Body) and one government department. Members of the quangos cannot guarantee they will survive an election. In conse-

quence, thinking about the teaching profession is splintered and blinkered.

The profession, however, is divided itself. There are six unions in constant competition for members. Here too, therefore, thinking about the profession is fragmented and fixed on the here and now. This is why a General Teaching Council, a body that sets high professional standards and thinks coherently about the future, is so important. Serious thought needs to be given to questions such as: how do we ensure teachers make effective use of the revolution in communications and information technology? How can teachers spend more time on their own professional development and less on the bureaucratic tasks that weigh them down?

The ultimate goal must surely be a profession which is constantly learning, better paid, better respected, but fewer in number.

Step two: put failure on the agenda.

THERE is a taboo about discussing failing teachers and failing schools. Yet by not doing so, educators contribute to the public view that such failure is inevitable. Low public expectations then in turn contribute to creating failure.

In fact, failure is not inevitable. Old-fashioned figures suggest that the number of poor lessons is falling. The profession itself should consid-

er setting targets to ensure that the fall continues. It should also ensure that the small number of teachers who are unlikely to improve, even with support, leave teaching.

Step three: promote the revolution in pedagogy. RECENT work at Keele University and elsewhere suggests that the use of information technology improves pupil motivation. This is one of a number of developments which suggest the need for a radical re-think about teaching methodology, the grouping of children in schools, and assessment techniques.

Only teachers, in collaboration perhaps with universities, can drive this revolution. The job of policy-makers is to create conditions in which teachers have the morale, time and energy to lead it.

Step four: think through accountability. THE need for public services to be publicly accountable is political common ground. The Labour Party has rightly committed itself not only to continuing the publication of information tables about school performance, but also to extending and improving it. Both parties are committed to regular inspection of schools.

The question is how? At the moment, there are insufficient links between the various pillars of accountability. For example, if examination results suggest that one

school is broadly successful and that another is a cause for concern, does it make sense to inspect them in exactly the same way as happens at the moment? Surely we should concentrate on the weak schools.

Also, it should be borne in mind that the major contribution of inspection to improvement is that it encourages schools to review their own work before the inspectors arrive. This suggests that school self-view should be given greater emphasis.

Step five: recognise that school is important, but not enough. IN THE next century, we will think of learning taking place not just in schools but in the home and a host of other places.

School will remain important. It will teach the basics of the 21st century and provide young people with the opportunity to learn the moral codes and the means of participating in a pluralist, democratic society. But young people will also be able to learn at home in ways that we never dreamt of in the past. The complaint that some children cannot do homework because they have no books at home can become a thing of the past. If families themselves are unstable we can set up well-equipped home-work centres.

Step six: invest steadily, and re-distribute progressively. SCHOOL improvement requires consistent effort over time. Funding should reflect this fact. There must be a promise of small but steady real growth in spending over a five-year period (at least). Schools and local education authorities should be given the chance to plan properly with three-year funding horizons. Improvement becomes difficult if not impossible when a school does not know its budget from one year to the next. Since the potential for increased funding from government is limited, ways of harnessing private finance need to be explored.

In terms of redistribution, inner city schools need a larger share, not to invest in failure but in recognition of the greater problems pupils bring to school with them. In addition, a larger proportion of growth should go into nursery and primary education, but only in exchange for clear published data about their performance.

Step seven: extend out-of-school activities. THE full range of activities from dance to debating, soccer to sailing should be opened to young people of all classes and properly accredited. The Social Justice Commission's idea of community service is important too. The passivity that is the hallmark of so many young people's upbringing in the 1990s is unhealthy for them and society. In the next decade we can change that.

The author is Professor of Education at Keele University.

Self-sufficiency is the answer

Returning to a direct-grant system would only lead to a bureaucratic nightmare

It may be true, as Dr Johnson claimed, that the certainty of being hanged in a fortnight can concentrate a man's mind to a wonderful degree. Lesser causes, however, seem to produce lesser effects. Dr Martin Stephen, High Master of Manchester Grammar School, has reacted to Labour proposals to axe the assisted-places scheme, which supports 290 of his 1,400 pupils, by declaring a willingness to see his school enter the state system. "Bring back direct grant" is the cry.

Yet it is difficult not to be taken aback by the sheer unreality of the Manchester demarche. The former direct-grant schools occupied elite positions at the top of a system of secondary education which operated on selective principles: this system was dismantled with equal enthusiasm by Conservatives and Labour alike, and replaced by a near-universal pattern of comprehensive schools founded on egalitarianism. Today's education-

been part of the state sector, so there can be no question of "re-joining" it.

Fuzziest of all is the enthusiasm of Mr Walden, Dr Stephen and others for the direct-grant system of days gone by. This was never a solution to Britain's educational ills. And it cannot possibly be revived without the benefit of the social and ideological factors — the class structure and systems of academic selection — that respectively buttressed and underpinned it. No doubt it will be mourned for a while longer, although it is notoriously part of the legacy of the welfare state that thinking people have been given bad consciences about paying for services.

With the question of payment, of course, we approach the heart of the matter. MGS is afraid of losing its income from assisted places: Mr Walden, on the basis of undisclosed calculations, ascribes a *per capita* cost to a place in an independent school "often double that in the state sector"; the Labour Party considers its tax bill. But there is neither much honesty nor much realism about discussion of educational costs in Britain today. The Donnan Commission, established many years ago that the true cost of a place in the state educational system was little different from the true cost of a place in the inde-

The principle of continuing independence is a precious guarantee of educational quality

pendent sector, but figures on the state side have become much harder to get since then, and centralised state control has meant less, rather than more, transparency of accounting.

Where real figures are published, as in the case of boarding costs, it is apparent that the state education provision is vastly more expensive than virtually anything on the independent side.

Education today cannot possibly be cheap; but need it be so costly? The problem is above all one of state control — a pattern evident in so many parts of national life since the Second World War, and only partially reversed by the Thatcher years: centralisation leads to rising costs, diminishing efficiency and dwindling satisfaction. Manchester and other northern grammar schools may be nostalgic for yesterday's civic virtues, but the reality of the state system is Whitehall-dominated bureaucracy, as costly as it is incompetent, and dogmatic at boot. Clear thinking is required.

The principle of continuing independence is a precious guarantee of educational quality, and those responsible must find a better way of resourcing it than sponging off the state. The bolder way of self-sufficiency is best.

MICHAEL ST JOHN PARKER

The author is headmaster of Abingdon School

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Fraud investigators go solo



Taking on the Big Six: David Lee, left, and Tim Allen

By JON ASHWORTH

TWO of Britain's most respected fraud investigators have struck out on their own to challenge the might of the Big Six accountancy firms.

David Lee, 42, former head of special investigations at Price Waterhouse, and Tim Allen, 32, his former right-hand man, have set up their own practice, Lee & Allen, and hope to pick up assignments by playing on the conflicts of interest at the big firms.

Mr Lee, who spent two years with the Serious Fraud Office, and led the investigation into Maxwell Communication Corporation, said: "We saw the definite need for an

independent seventh operator in this field. The Big Six have all sorts of potential conflicts of interest."

The collapse of Barings demonstrated the manner in which the big firms can find their hands tied. Coopers & Lybrand was auditor, Ernst & Young and Price Waterhouse were tied up in the administration. KPMG is auditor to ING, which bought Barings, and Arthur Andersen is involved with the Bank of England inquiry.

Mr Allen said: "This is an enormous area. Something like Barings just expands the market terribly."

PowerGen revises incinerator plan

By MARTIN WALLER

A WASTE FIRM and PowerGen, the smaller of the electricity generators, will resubmit joint plans soon for a £200 million power station beside the Thames in Kent that will produce energy by incinerating a third of London's household waste.

The plant, which would be Europe's biggest incinerator, was blocked by a public inquiry last year after complaints from local residents about pollution and the volume of traffic it would attract. The site at Belvedere, Kent,

is a former borax factory operated by KIZ. The proposed incinerator will produce 110,000 MW of electricity.

The firm behind the scheme, Cory Environmental, now says it has altered its plans sufficiently to overcome the local's fears.

"There is a perception of incineration which is not good," admitted David Riddle, managing director at Cory. "But the site is a kilometre from the nearest housing and in a special industrial zone." He added that the latest incinerators were much cleaner than their predecessors built in the 1970s and met stringent new EC pollution standards to be introduced next year.

The public inquiry rejected the earlier plans because the site was overdeveloped and local roads were too narrow. Cory, which is owned by the quoted, Ocean Group, has since bought an adjacent stretch of land and improved local transport.

The new plans go to the

Department of Trade and Industry this month.

PowerGen, through its combined heat and power offshoot, is effectively a consultant and has yet to decide whether it wants to be involved in building and operating the power station.

A total of 1.2 million tonnes of household waste is to be burnt at Belvedere. It will be collected from two local-authority refuse points at Wandsworth and Tower Hamlets and shipped down the Thames in one of Cory's distinctive lighters and tugs, whose orange containers are a frequent sight on the river.

Mr Riddle said the plant would take pressure off the company's Essex landfill sites, which will run out of space in the year 2002.

Cory currently ships 500,000 tonnes of London household waste down the Thames each year to Essex, but many industry experts believe that landfill will have to be phased out because of constraints on space.

Training scarce for directors

Fewer than a quarter of non-executive directors have had any formal training for their roles, yet most of them think training would improve their effectiveness on company boards, a report by the Institute of Management says.

Only 16 per cent of chairmen require directors to undertake formal training.

Failures fall

A report by Dun & Bradstreet, the business information service, shows that the number of small business bankruptcies fell to 5,800 from 7,300 in the first quarter this year. But there were wide variations across the country, and increases in bankruptcies were seen in Scotland, up 26.5 per cent, and London, 1.3 per cent.

Slowdown seen

The economy, which grew 4 per cent last year, will lose momentum this year, say two forecasts out today. Ernst & Young says that growth will decline to 3 per cent while inflation will rise to just over 3 per cent by next spring. NatWest Bank predicts that growth will slow to 2.6 per cent this year and see inflation at 3.4 per cent next year.

Far East earnings should oil the wheels for Burmah

COMPANIES

BURMAH CASTROL: STRONG growth in America and the Far East, together with currency benefits, should combine to help the lubricants fuels and chemicals group, where Jonathan Fry is chief executive, turn in a solid full-year performance.

The improvement in earnings seen in the first half should have continued as economic recovery sets in for most of the group's markets, including the Far East and emerging Asian markets, where it has significant exposure. Final net income, due today, is expected to rise to about £114 million, or £111 million (£81.3 million) on a published basis, according to Paul Spedding at Kleinwort Benson. Market forecasts range from £110 million to £116 million. A 29.5p (27.5p) dividend is predicted, with half of the final as a foreign income dividend.

MORGAN CRUCIBLE: Steady growth in most product areas should help the specialty materials group to lift final pre-tax profits, due today, to about £73 million (£65 million), according to JBS. Market forecasts range from £68 million to £74 million. A dividend of 13p (12.6p) is predicted.

HIGHLAND DISTILLERS: The Scotch whisky-maker, best known for The Famous Grouse brand, should please with another spirited performance at the interim stage, in spite of



A top-up is likely from Jonathan Fry, of Burmah Castrol

increased competition. NatWest Securities expects first half pre-tax profits, due today, to advance to £23.3 million (£23.4 million). Market forecasts range from £25 million to £27 million. A 1.9p (1.7p) dividend is predicted.

LAIRD GROUP: Recovery in the European motor industry should help the automotive components and building products group to lift final pre-tax profits, due on Wednesday, to at least £46 million (£38.1 million), according to BZW. An 11.3p (10.7p) dividend is expected. Analysts await Laird's plans after it

raised £68 million in November to diversify.

ALFRED McALPINE: After mixed results from Britain's other construction companies, Alfred McAlpine is expected to paint a brighter picture on Thursday. Profits are expected to surge to £10.5 million (£1 million), according to NatWest Securities, with a dividend of 7p (6.5p). News is awaited on current trading and prospects after McAlpine recently reorganised by selling its quarry arm to Wimpey for £43.5 million.

PHILIP PANGALOS

ECONOMIC OUTLOOK

FINANCIAL markets must wait until Friday for the key economic indicator of the week, the US March employment figures, which are likely to guide the Federal Reserve's next interest rate move.

A higher than expected American growth figure for the final 1994 quarter upset the US bond market on Friday, sending shares tumbling, as fears were rekindled that the Fed could raise rates again.

The dollar is again expected to cause turmoil in the currency markets. Hopes of a more stable environment were dashed on Friday when markets ignored a German rate cut and pushed the dollar to new lows.

Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, and Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of England, meet on Wednesday. The City thinks they are unlikely to raise base rates immediately, given good underlying inflation, but will tighten this quarter.

UK manufacturing data for February, out Thursday, are expected to show output growth slowing to an annual 3.2 per cent, from 4.3 per cent. UK statistics on M0 are out today and on official reserves tomorrow. The monthly monetary report is on Wednesday.

COLIN NARBROUGH

SUNDAY TIPS

Sunday Times: Buy: Bardon, Vickers, Nurdin & Peacock, Princesdale Group, Sell: Hickson. Mail on Sunday: Buy: Pressac, Finelst, Exco. Sell: Manganese Bronze.

RESULTS AND STATISTICS

TODAY

Interline: Creston Land, Highland Distillers, Pittman, Flanck Auto Precision, Bernrose, Burmah Castrol, Carnes, Cassell, Coverdale, CLE, Denney, Donohoe, Fortune Oil, Hordern, London & Manchester, Morgan Crucible, Rademacher, Resco, Simons & Co, Transitec, United India, Whitbread. Economic statistics: M0 (March).

TOMORROW

Interline: Allied London Properties,

IAWS, Sunest & Vins, Finales: Argent, Beradin, Ecomore Int, Brooks Service Group, CLS Higgs, Clavical Computing, Dagenham Motors, Home Counties Newspapers, JBA Higgs, Malaysia, Ren Groffert, Style, Thailand Fund, Trafficmaster, United Friendly Group, Vyvian. Economic statistics: UK official reserves (March), advance energy statistics (Feb), housing starts and completions (Feb).

WEDNESDAY

Interline: None scheduled. Finales: Agis Group, David Brown Group, City

Centre Restaurants, Clydeport, Co-operative Bank, Dolphin Packaging, Land Group, Prime People, Rugby Estates, Sherwood Group. Economic statistics: Cyclical indicators (Feb), monthly monetary meeting between Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor of the Exchequer and Eddie George, Governor of Bank of England.

THURSDAY

Interline: James Dick, TR Far East Income Trust, Wardle Stores, Finales: Boston, Brammer, Culver Holdings,

Friday: None scheduled. Finales: Ben Bailey Construction, Middlesex Holdings, OIS International Inspection. Economic statistics: None scheduled.

CHANGE ON WEEK

US dollar 1.6280 (+0.0333)
German mark 2.2271 (-0.0254)
Exchange index 85.3 (-0.3)
Bank of England official close (4pm)

FT 30 shares

2407.4 (-5.6)
FT-SE 100 3137.9 (-15.5)
New York Dow Jones 4157.69 (+19.02)
Tokyo-Nikkei Avge 16139.95 (+390.18)

Bank	Bank
Australia \$	2.31
Austria Sch	16.87
Belgium Fr	66.35
Canada \$	2.382
Cyprus Cyp	0.781
Denmark Kr	8.74
Finland Mk	7.80
France Fr	16.33
Germany DM	2.41
Greece Dr	385.00
Hong Kong \$	7.75
India Ru	4.287
Italy Lit	202.00
Japan Yen	157.30
Netherlands Gld	0.605
Norway Kr	2.455
Portugal Esc	200.00
Spain Ptas	166.64
Sweden Kr	1.36
Switzerland Fr	2.01
Taiwan New	94.03
UK £	1.705

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank plc. Different rates apply to interbank clearing rates as at close of trading on Friday.

The 'feel-good' parallel

The Conservative Party must, by now, be frustrated by the absence of the "feel-good factor" even though the economy is in good shape, unemployment is falling and inflation is being kept under control.

The gilt market is suffering the same malaise. The domestic economy has shown some improvement, but the improvement in gilt prices has been only gradual and halting. Ten-year yields have found it difficult to break below 8.4 per cent. Meanwhile, yield spreads of gilts over other leading bond markets have risen steadily.

The Tories may find it difficult to identify why improvement in the economy is not being translated into better poll figures. We do not have to look far, though, to find reasons for the lack of enthusiasm for gilts.

UK bonds have suffered because of sterling's fall. Overseas investors significant buyers of gilts a couple of years ago — are also worried about the political uncertainty, and have been consistent

net sellers since last spring. Partly because of this reduced demand, the Bank of England has lightened the funding burden on the overseas sector's preferred investment area of short-medium maturities.

The most recent four auctions have been for the ten-year or 20-year benchmark issues, the only five-year paper issued has been in the form of small tranches. Although the 1995-96 FTSB is expected to be the critical test, that for 1994-95, this proportionate increase in long funding is helping to make the yield curve less inverted at distant maturities.

As well as underperforming European markets, gilts have also fared worse than US Treasury bonds. We consider the American economy to be stronger than commonly perceived. Already, retail sales appear to be bouncing back as the impact of delayed tax rebates this year kicks in. The US is at that point in the economic cycle at which inflation is likely to rise. There is a real danger of US bond yields

moving upwards during the next few months. Unfortunately, gilts will not be able to resist being dragged the same way, especially as UK inflation will also rise further during the next half year.

We see American ten-year bond yields peaking at about 8 per cent this autumn, which would imply a gilt yield peak of about 9 per cent. Strong domestic buying interest should be triggered at these levels, enabling both markets to rally to the year end.

This would represent a total return for the year of roughly 10 per cent for most gilt maturities.

Next year may be a different story for gilts, though, with spreads of UK gilts over US and German bonds rising. UK inflation will accelerate and the political risk premium will grow. It is likely that the "feel-good factor" will remain as elusive for the gilt market as it is for the Government.

STEPHEN SCOTT
Kleinwort Benson

LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES

0171-782 7344

PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE OF MEETING

NOTICE IS HEREBY given that the One Hundred and Sixty-ninth Annual General Meeting of the Members of Scottish Amicable Life Assurance Society will be held in the principal office, Amicable House, 150 St. Vincent Street, Glasgow G2 5NQ, on Tuesday, 25th April 1995, at 4.00 pm.

By Order of the Directors
J. C. Mitchell, Secretary
8th March 1995

Scottish Amicable

CHARITY COMMISSION
Scottish Amicable Life Assurance Society is a charity registered with the Charity Commission for Scotland. The charity's principal office is at Amicable House, 150 St. Vincent Street, Glasgow G2 5NQ. The charity's principal office is at Amicable House, 150 St. Vincent Street, Glasgow G2 5NQ. The charity's principal office is at Amicable House, 150 St. Vincent Street, Glasgow G2 5NQ.

WILLIAM ASHWORTH
DECEASED
In accordance with the provisions of the Wills Act 1837, notice is hereby given that the estate of William Asworth, who died on 20th March 1995, is being administered by the executor named in his will, Mr. J. C. Mitchell, of 8th March 1995.

LEGAL NOTICES

ASLSPORTH LIMITED
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Administrative Receivership of ASLSPORTH LIMITED, a company registered in Scotland, is being administered by the Administrative Receiver, Mr. J. C. Mitchell, of 8th March 1995. The Administrative Receiver is acting in accordance with the provisions of the Insolvency Act 1986 and the Insolvency Rules 1986. The Administrative Receiver is acting in accordance with the provisions of the Insolvency Act 1986 and the Insolvency Rules 1986.

GREENWOOD CONSTRUCTION LIMITED
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Administrative Receivership of GREENWOOD CONSTRUCTION LIMITED, a company registered in Scotland, is being administered by the Administrative Receiver, Mr. J. C. Mitchell, of 8th March 1995. The Administrative Receiver is acting in accordance with the provisions of the Insolvency Act 1986 and the Insolvency Rules 1986. The Administrative Receiver is acting in accordance with the provisions of the Insolvency Act 1986 and the Insolvency Rules 1986.

SURINANCE LIMITED
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Administrative Receivership of SURINANCE LIMITED, a company registered in Scotland, is being administered by the Administrative Receiver, Mr. J. C. Mitchell, of 8th March 1995. The Administrative Receiver is acting in accordance with the provisions of the Insolvency Act 1986 and the Insolvency Rules 1986. The Administrative Receiver is acting in accordance with the provisions of the Insolvency Act 1986 and the Insolvency Rules 1986.

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE RECEIVER
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Administrative Receiver, Mr. J. C. Mitchell, of 8th March 1995, has been appointed as the Administrative Receiver of the company, SURINANCE LIMITED, a company registered in Scotland. The Administrative Receiver is acting in accordance with the provisions of the Insolvency Act 1986 and the Insolvency Rules 1986.

LEGAL, PUBLIC, COMPANY & PARLIAMENTARY NOTICES
TO PLACE NOTICES FOR THE PUBLIC, COMPANY & PARLIAMENTARY NOTICES, please contact the Law Office, 150 St. Vincent Street, Glasgow G2 5NQ. The Law Office is acting in accordance with the provisions of the Insolvency Act 1986 and the Insolvency Rules 1986.

- 1994 Pre-tax profits up 18% in difficult market conditions
- Earnings per share up 21%
- Dividend increased by 36%
- Improved operating margins
- Cost controlled

"We are delighted to report that INVESCO has achieved a substantial increase in profits in 1994 against a background of difficult market conditions. We are particularly pleased to announce that the Board is recommending a final dividend of 3.5p, to be paid as a Foreign Income Dividend. This will make a total dividend for the year of 4.75p, representing an increase of 36% for taxpaying shareholders."

We are confident that during 1995 we can build on our very solid performance in 1994 and, while our business will always be subject to year to year fluctuations in world markets, we have a well developed long term plan in place which will enable us to continue to grow shareholder value. We are looking forward to the future with confidence and optimism."

Charles W. Brady
Executive Chairman

If you would like to reserve a copy of the Annual Report, please write to INVESCO PLC, 11 Devonshire Square, London EC2M 4YR

100

means of one of those narrative whizzing blurs, which used to be shorthand in American series for "3,000 miles away" or "Meanwhile, in Lilla...". "Meanwhile, in Lilla... is it trouble?" Bugs missed that one.

The stand-up material was mostly about blacks in the media — a subject hardly new to black performers, but with good twists. In the 1970s, when every film featured a black pimp, said Henry Disney remade *Snow White* with a black dwarf, called Funky. Funky didn't believe in digging in a mine all day. "Get in here girl, and lie down!" He also mentioned that currently, Sunday night television is a virtual black-free zone — such dramas as *Darling Buddies* and *Murder, She Says* are the only black *Marple* being set in pre-immigration Britain. An excellent point. What with *The Choir* and *Hamish Macbeth* (even the dog is white) perhaps the broadcasters ought to keep an eye on that. Not everybody is a black man.

CHANNEL 4

and Hercules (7923318)

Big Breakfast (22226)

Get Your Life (r) (s) (44715)

**Adventures Of Mark Twain (1944, li-
brary)** Fredric March, John Carandine and Al-
la Bopco. Directed by John Carandine. Directed
by Ralph (7847689). 11:50 **House of
Pain (7868158)**

To Reply (r). (Teletext) (s) (24951)

Home Street. The guests are Hilary Clinton
and John Kahn (r) (66690). 1:30 **Little Miss folio:
Paddington, Frodo Tootles and the
ables (r) (72086)**

Stories of the Rainforest. A documentary story
of the rainforest. (r) (72086)

Great (r) (85608)

Late Show (s) (4951)

Without Borders: Italy (r). (Teletext) (s)

Fifteen To One. William G. Stevenson
introduces the first contestants in
the, knock out general knowledge of
(s) (15)

Golden Girls. More comedy from the Mi-
nneapolis residents of a remote hospital
in Florida. Black comedy series in a Florida hospital
(s) (67)

Cosby Show (r). (Teletext) (s) (80)

With Mr. Cooper. College comedy series
of the United States. (Teletext) (s) (32)

Planet News (Teletext) and weather (3832)

Slit. Viewers' video soapbox (185067)


The Plains. Des and Jan Bartlett's film on the
and fauna of Namibia's Etosha National Park
the rains came following the area's w
of the century. (Teletext) (6715)

Whodunnit. Hough. Hospital comedy series
(s) (15)

Deadline. (Teletext) (s)

Undercover Britain: Taxi To (Teletext) (53951) (s)

D Blue: New York police drama series (s) (389593)



Longani returns from Soweto (10.55pm)

Time of Violence: A controversial thriller, set in Africa, about a Soweto resident who is forced on the run after witnessing a massacre of blacks. Starring Vusi Kunene (r). (Teletext) (68941)

Roadrunner, Jools Holland on a musical venture in Tennessee and Mississippi. Narrated by Stephen Fry (r) (s) (6253443)

Day I Gave Up Smoking and Fishing: Episodes from the Zagreb Studios (6067384)

Fashions of 1934 (1934/bw): starring John Powell and Bette Davis. A comedy about a dress designer, famous for pirating other people's designs, who receives his comeuppance when he meets an old girlfriend. Directed by William (r) (738571). Ends at 3.35

[illegible]

Three-way fight breaks out for BR workshops

By Ross Tieman, Industrial Correspondent

EUROPE'S three biggest railway equipment companies are bidding for control of British Rail's maintenance yards and rolling stock in an effort to secure a market for their products after the network is privatised.

If they can take over the maintenance facilities, the manufacturers are then expected to ally themselves with financial institutions to buy the three rolling-stock leasing companies now being marketed by Hambros, the merchant bank, in a £2 billion trade sale.

The British Rail vendor unit is finalising contracts for the six BR heavy maintenance workshops. Offers have been made by GEC-Alsthom, the Anglo-French group, ABB, the Swedish-Swiss manufacturer, and Siemens of Germany.

To thrive in a fiercely competitive privatised market where trains are leased by operators rather than bought outright, manufacturers believe they must secure control of all train-supply costs from the actual building through to overhaul.

Train-builders will have to form close links with the

leasing companies. Otherwise they will be unable to direct the "cascade" process by which the cost of new rolling stock to users is offset by moving old trains to secondary routes.

At the same time manufacturers need to work closely with train operators to reduce the cost of running trains already in service.

Under contracts established ahead of privatisation, train maintenance will consume some £320 million of the £800 million rental income earned by the three companies that lease rolling stock — Angel Train Contracts, Eversholt Leasing and Porterbrook.

Half of the 25 train operating companies will have their own maintenance facilities. The British Rail Maintenance Ltd workshops to be sold this week or next have an annual income of some £170 million.

The scope for maintenance savings is considerable. Contracts already established for up to four years peg charges to the Producer Price Index, minus 3 per cent. But the two British manufacturers may be able to reap much larger

economies by using refurbishment to smooth the flow of work through their train-building plants.

GEC-Alsthom, a joint venture between GEC and France's Alcatel, is Britain's biggest manufacturer, with plants at Birmingham and Manchester.

ABB, which bought the former British Rail train works at Derby and York, has been struggling to fill its factories. But after forming a joint venture with Daimler-Benz of Germany only weeks ago, ABB is determined to win a leading role both in Britain and worldwide.

Siemens, the German train builder, is already in the UK market. It is supplying trains for the Heathrow Express, a new link between London's chief airport and Paddington station near the city centre.

Management teams are also bidding for some of the BRML workshops. A manufacturer that falls in the initial bidding may thus be able to snap up a buyout later. But once the BRML deals are done, attention will switch to the rolling stock companies.

With a net book value of £1.8 billion, and a total of 12,000 trains and coaches, the three companies are expected to attract attention from would-be buyers worldwide.

Last train, page 38



Dial-a-tune: the Rev Gillian Munro of the Unst Church of Scotland, in the Shetland Islands, plays a song sent by Music by Fax, the first dial-up sheet music service. Developed by Music Sales Group, a publisher in the £35 million-a-year sheet music market, the service is aimed at teachers and has a library of about 1,000 songs

Nomura Europe braced for cuts

By Patricia Tehran, Banking Correspondent

NOMURA International, the Japanese broker's European business, is bracing itself for a shakeout at the end of the month with the return to London of Hitoshi Tonomura, who ran its British operations in the 1980s.

Mr Tonomura is expected to focus Nomura's operations on its international businesses with a view to enhancing profitability. Cuts are expected in lower margin businesses, such as equity broking and sales, and a reduced emphasis is likely on some of its top sales businesses.

Nomura has begun to trim its operations, quietly cutting 57 jobs from the London operations since October to leave 994 staff. The expected restructuring is seen as an attempt to focus on higher margin businesses. Further job losses are likely to result.

Last month, Nomura announced that it would incur a ¥22 billion (£150 million) loss in the year to March 31.

Last week Standard & Poor's, the credit rating agency, lowered its senior debt ratings for Nomura from AA to AA minus. It also downgraded Yamaichi. S&P said that the loss announcement was contrary to its expectations.

Mr Tonomura was president, then chairman, of Nomura International between 1984 and 1989, when he was widely credited with putting Nomura on the map as a Eurobond player.

Merrett names open test case against Lloyd's

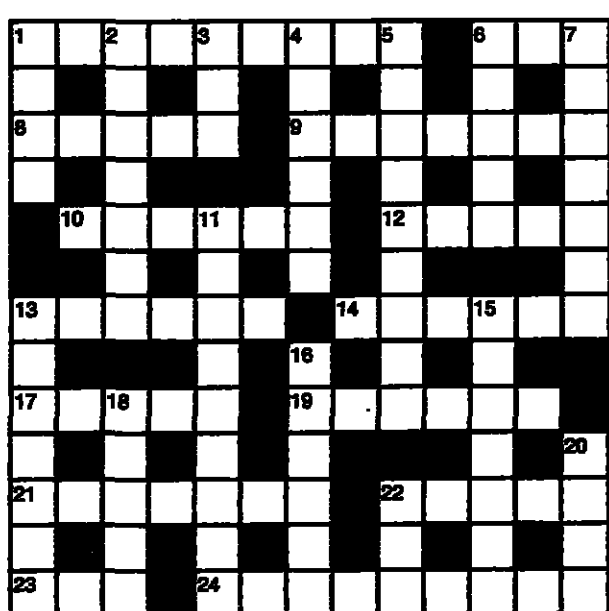
ABOUT 2,000 Lloyd's names start their High Court action today in a bid to win compensation for losses of around £250 million (Sarah Bagnall writes). The case, brought by names on Merrett syndicate 418, is the first of the "long tail" actions to reach court and is expected to set a precedent. The syndicate's losses are due to asbestosis and pollution claims.

The names allege negligence against Stephen Merrett, a former deputy

chairman at Lloyd's and the syndicate's underwriter, his agency, the Merrett Underwriting Agency as well as several other Lloyd's agencies and Ernst & Whinney (now part of Ernst & Young), the syndicate's auditors.

John Mays, chairman of the Merrett 418 (1985) Names Association, said: "This involves the inner sanctum of Lloyd's establishment and if the allegations of negligence are upheld it will be a serious blow to the old guard at Lloyd's."

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 436

ACROSS

- Go into reverse (4-5)
- Friend (3)
- Tiny piece; fight (5)
- Mourned troops (7)
- Enforce; take advantage (6)
- Jacket collar (5)
- Osman ruler (6)
- Bell tower (6)
- Head of religious house (5)
- Giant's Causeway county (6)
- A risky situation (4,3)
- Helpful (2,3)
- Transport-workers' union (1,1,1)
- Bow the knee (9)

DOWN

- Uncultivated country; metal sleeve (4)
- Burnt sugar (7)
- Softened food; drivel (3)
- Paper sent with consignment (6)
- (One's) utmost effort (5,4)
- Tubular marine animal; benign growth (5)
- Faithfulness (7)
- Wholly under one's influence (4,6)
- Run in all directions (7)
- Lack of success (7)
- Keel over (ship for repair) (6)
- Constructed (5)
- Religious splinter-group (4)
- Away; spoiled (3)

Concise crossword No 435 inadvertently carried the wrong grid in Saturday's newspaper. We apologise for the error.

SOLUTION TO NO 435

ACROSS: 1 Curve up 5 Mimi 9 Debut 10 Atheist 11 Be one's own man 12 Boyish 13 Staple 16 Discourteous 19 Oppidan 20 Oscar 21 Mark 22 Earldom
DOWN: 1 Code 2 Rubbery 3 Eat one's words 4 Praise 6 Idiom 7 Intense 8 Shown the door 12 Bad form 14 Pounced 15 Cringe 17 Super 18 Brim

TIMES WORLD ATLAS: 9th Comprehensive Edition £36, 6th Concise Edition £44, 3rd Family Edition £18.99, Reference Edition £15.99, Compact Edition £9.99, Mini (Pocket) Edition £6.99.

TIMES THEMATIC ATLAS: The Times Atlas of World History (H18) £44, Concise Edition (H18) £15.99, NEW Compact Edition (H18) £10.99, The Times Atlas of European History (H18) £26, The Times Atlas of the Second World War (H18) £26.50, The Times Atlas of Archaeology (H18) £26, The Times London History Atlas (H18) £26.99, The Times Atlas of the Bible (H18) £20.50, Concise Edition (H18) £15.99. Prices include P&H. Send cheques with order payable to Adams Ltd, 51 Manor Lane, London SE15 5JW. Delivery to 3 days. Tel 0181-632 4595 (24hrs) No credit cards.

Job insecurity becomes workers' main worry

By Philip Bassett, Industrial Editor

BRITAIN has lost 50,000 jobs in the first three months of this year, maintaining a strong sense of job insecurity and a "feel-bad" factor at work, a new survey suggests.

The Government, however, will this week release the latest details of its own measures of employment, which are suggesting that the number of jobs is now rising.

Such claims have provoked scepticism when set against continuing announcements of job losses by large companies and, indeed, the Government's main measure of employment will be criticised this week in an independent study from the Royal Statistical Society.

Meanwhile, the survey by the Manufacturing, Science and Finance Union shows that just over 50,000 jobs have gone in the past three months, in a range of companies including British Aerospace, Thorn EMI, Norwich Union, ICI, United Biscuits and Mercury.

The union claims today that the "feel-bad" factor is dominating workplaces because of this high rate of job losses. A survey of the union's representatives in more than 400 private and public-sector workplaces employing more

than 140,000 people shows that 90 per cent of workers feel that their jobs are no more secure than they were three months ago.

Twenty-seven per cent believe their jobs are less secure, with the highest concern recorded in the financial-services sector. Job security is the issue prompting most concern, with a ranked score of 4.69 on a 1-5 scale of importance, followed by pay at 4.28.

The report from the Royal Statistical Society, to be published on Wednesday, is expected to criticise the main monthly claimant count measure of unemployment, adding weight to attacks on the figures for being "fiddled".

The society is likely to call for a different measure based on the Government's quarterly Labour Force Survey.

Pay settlements appear to be holding steady, with little sign of an imminent take-off despite rising inflation, according to a new study by the independent Industrial Relations Services (IRS). It shows pay rises running at 3 per cent for the fourth successive month. The IRS says the levelling-out in the fall in unemployment may be continuing to exert a downward pressure on wages in spite of increases in headline inflation.

The Confederation of British Industry will today announce a new initiative for achieving business success through improved environmental performance by means of minimising waste. Howard Davies, CBI Director-General, says: "The CBI's work on competitiveness shows that companies that make the environment part of core strategy are benefiting most from the efficiency gains it can bring."



Davies: tackling waste

£2bn to be spent on deal rooms

MORE than £2 billion will be spent on UK dealing rooms this year, according to a survey by Kinsey Consulting, the financial technology market-research group (Philip Pangalos writes). The survey, in which 100 financial institutions were interviewed, estimates that about £900 million is available for the purchase of new technology, including hardware, dealer board systems and telecommunications. UK dealing-room operators will also spend more than £1 billion on technology running costs, including payments for information subscriptions and licence fees.

Half of all UK dealing rooms have made some form of technology upgrade in the past 12 months.

The survey also confirmed Reuters as the leading player in the information sector.

Work resumes on flotation of Grid

By Martin Waller

THE £4 billion flotation of the National Grid, the biggest stock-market debut this year, is under way again, weeks after being stalled by the surprise decision of the electricity industry regulator, to review prices.

The National Grid, jointly owned by the 12 regional electricity companies in England and Wales, was to have been floated this summer. But Professor Stephen Littlechild's decision last month to look again at the pricing regime in the industry, and impose tougher limits on price rises that the companies to concede that a flotation would be impossible until that review was completed.

But advisers to the Grid now say the company could be quoted as soon as August, and the preparations for the float by advisers such as Kleinwort Benson, the merchant bank, will now be carried on in parallel with Mr Littlechild's deliberations. Details will be passed on to him through the Department of Trade and Industry to assist his work.

However, the float can then go ahead only if the pricing regime is known and agreed by the industry. If the review becomes enmeshed in a Monopolies and Mergers Commission inquiry, the float will again be delayed.

One company chairman said last week that there was a general agreement between the Government, the regulator and the industry that there was no legal obstacle to be overcome before the Grid could be floated.

The regulator's intervention, and the subsequent sharp share-price falls and rerating within the sector, have reduced the potential value of the Grid. The latest valuation is of somewhere short of £4 billion.

Tarmacing the Silk Road

UK in slow lane to build Chinese mega motorway

By Jonathan Prynn, Transport Correspondent

BRITISH firms risk losing out on the biggest road building bonanza since the invention of the wheel because British motorway technology is falling behind that in the rest of the developed world.

The Chinese Government is planning to build 22,000 miles of motorway — enough to go around the world — at a cost of £80 billion by 2020 before an expected boom in private car ownership. There are currently only three million drivers in China, but car ownership is growing at a rate of 15 per cent a year and most leading Western carmakers already have plants in China.

The programme, the equivalent of the entire motorway network in Western Europe, will consist of a grid of 12 dual

carriageway motorways, five running north to south and seven east to west. One of the east-west links will form part of a new tarmac version of the Silk Road, the ancient trade route that has linked Europe with the Orient.

The road programme, probably the biggest Chinese construction project since the Great Wall, will largely be privately financed through tolls and will rely almost entirely on foreign technology and expertise.

A five-man delegation from Peking led by Mao Jian, director of planning at the Chinese Ministry of Communications, last week travelled to Europe on a fact-finding mission, inspecting motorways in Switzerland,

France, Italy and Spain. Britain was missed off the delegation's agenda because it is still several years away from developing its first tolling system for trunk roads. French and Italian firms are at the forefront of the rush to win contracts in China.

Two toll motorways are in operation in China. One, a 100-mile stretch running from Hong Kong to Guangzhou, was financed by Gordon Wu, a Hong Kong businessman. Mr Wu expects to be in profit within seven years of construction, compared with the 12 to 15-year payback period standard in the West.

The Chinese Government expects to have more than 10,000 miles of tolled motorway built by 2000.

This notice is issued in compliance with the requirements of The International Stock Exchange of the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland Limited (the "London Stock Exchange"). It does not constitute an invitation to any person to subscribe for or purchase any securities. Application has been made for the whole of the ordinary share capital of Central Motor Auctions plc (the "Company") currently in issue to be admitted to the Official List. It is expected that such admission will become effective and, that dealings in such ordinary shares will commence on 6 April 1995.

CENTRAL MOTOR AUCTIONS plc

(Incorporated and registered in England and Wales under the Companies Act 1985 - No. 448761)

Introduction to the Official List

by
Albert E Sharp

of
the whole of the issued ordinary share capital of 25p each
of Central Motor Auctions plc

Authorised	Issued and fully paid
Number 16,000,000	Number £13,659,333
Amount £4,000,000	Amount £3,414,833.25

ordinary shares of 25p each

Central Motor Auctions plc is the leading provider of vehicle remarketing and disposal management services to the motor industry.

Copies of the exempt listing document published on 30 March 1995 may be obtained during normal business hours on any weekday (Sundays and public holidays excepted), up to and including 4 April 1995, from the Company's Annual General Meeting of the London Stock Exchange, London Stock Exchange Tower, 10th Floor, 25 Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 3DF (by collection only) and up to and including 17 April 1995, from the Company's registered office at Central House, Fosseface Road, Rothwell, Leeds LS16 0PE and from

Edmund House
12 Newhall Street
Birmingham B3 3ER

Moor House
119 London Wall
London EC2Y 5ET

3 April 1995

Albert E Sharp